

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

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D'OH!

Day-old donuts dunked

Ridge pastry lovers are safe — for now



Chock Full of Nuts franchise owner Frank Montemore says his donuts will be fresh as a spring day.

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

A Bay Ridge Chock Full of Nuts was recently shut down after it was discovered that the popular coffee franchise was selling stale donuts acquired from a competitor.

The shutdown occurred on July 9, three months after the rogue coffee shop's nefarious ways earned it a mention in The Brooklyn Paper's "Yellow Hooker" column. With the word out, the big wigs at Chock Full of Nuts' main offices investigated whether the store on Third Avenue near 79th Street was indeed selling stale Dunkin' Donuts products to unknowing customers.

No franchise executives sent in a spy to verify the allegation, according to a donut source, who wished to remain nameless.

What the spy discovered was stranger than fiction, according to the source: The Chock Full of Nuts had befriended a Dunkin' Donuts owner and arranged for left-over Dunkin' donuts, twists and other treats to escape the trash and go instead to the display case at Chock Full.

"They were selling humus, strange cookies, and pizza. It was a disaster," the source said. "The higher-ups got word of the situation, shut the guy down, and handed it to someone they knew was reliable."

That someone is new owner Frank Montemore, who took over the cafe with partner Joe Fama.

"Let me just say the former owner was not in compliance with the Chock Full of Nuts," said Montemore, who runs three successful Chock Full of Nuts in Staten Island.

"It is no secret that they were selling Dunkin' Donuts, but I can't comment" further.

The response since we reported [last Saturday] has been great," Montemore added. "But it was clear when I took over that part of my job would be damage control."

Indeed, no one was fooled by the confectionary bait-and-switch — certainly not the donut savvy residents of Bay Ridge.

"I knew that it was Dunkin' Donuts from the minute I bit into a croissant," said local resident and pastry fan Lisa Tizzisallo. "It was so obvious; Chock Full of Nuts even left the Dunkin' Donuts labels on their display case."

Tizzisallo also didn't like the fact that the donuts were stale — but is willing to give the new owner a fresh start.

"The place looks like it has been cleaned up now," she said.



Pool with a view

The Floating Pool Lady barge at the foot of Joralemon Street in Brooklyn Heights is well-coming Brooklynites like Amanda, Rob and Matthew Rowan, to its cool water and skyline view. But the 174-person-capacity pool's sojourn off the Brooklyn coast is fleeting. After Labor Day, the pool will close; next summer, it may open in the South Bronx, which sought the pool this summer, but lost out to operators of the Brooklyn Bridge Park waterfront development. The state-run project is under pressure to demonstrate that it will be a park first and a luxury condo neighborhood second.

— Dana Rubinstein

Stop naming names CB2 moves to curb street co-names

By Claire Levenson
for The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights' community board, citing a rash of requests, is poised to make it tougher to co-name streets after everyday people.

At a meeting last month, Community Board 2's transportation committee voted unanimously in favor of new application criteria: Co-naming requests will only be accepted three years after the person's death and the board will review name changes every five years.

Committee Chairman John Dew said that in recent years, the board has received too many demands to co-name streets for people whose impact on the community seemed limited.

"There is a sense that it has gotten out of hand," said Dew, during the June 19 meeting at St. Francis College on Rensselaer (and, for now, only Rensselaer).

The board gets around 10 applications a year, up from just one or two a year, according to Dew.

Last year, 127 streets were co-named in the five boroughs and 29 of them were in Brooklyn, according to the City Council.

District Manager Rob Petris called the proposed three-year waiting time a "cooling period."

Many big donations came in on June 20, the day Mayor Bloomberg hosted a fundraiser for the Brooklyn Museum.

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Marty money misses mark War chest lags behind foes

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz, who for months has been openly toying with a run for the mayoralty in 2009, is trailing his would-be opponents badly in the only race that matters right now: money.

Markowitz has raised only \$750,000 for his undeclared 2009 campaign. City Comptroller Bill Thompson has raised more than \$3 million, while Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) has raised more than \$2 million.

Michael Weiss, Markowitz's campaign treasurer, insisted the situation was not as dire as it seemed on first blush.

"We think his numbers are pretty impressive," said Weiss, citing the \$500,000 that Markowitz has left over from his last campaign for borough president.

Even so, what is striking about Markowitz's fundraising so far is its lack of grass-roots financial support, especially given Markowitz's highly public persona.

Indeed, 77 percent of Markowitz's 201 donors gave him checks of \$2,000 or more, turning his donor list into a roster of bold-face names like Joe Sitt, president of Thor Equities, the firm that has multi-billion-dollar plans to revamp Coney Island; Shaya Boynelgreen, one of the borough's most prolific developers of luxury condominiums; and Joshua Moss, another major developer.

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Markowitz in his Upper East Side townhouse.

By contrast, only 23 percent of donors to Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion's potential run for mayor have given him more than \$2,000 each.

A mere five percent of Markowitz's donors gave him \$250 or less, the donation size normally associated with grassroots support. Thirty-one percent of Carrion's donors gave the Bronx less than \$250 or less.

Political strategists say that Markowitz must tap into the grassroots support.

See **MARTY** on page 14

Marty goes big time

Borough President Markowitz, term-limited and publicly pondering a run for mayoralty, may be trailing other would-be candidates in fundraising, but he's got Brooklyn's upper crust on his side. The Borough's coffers are flush with money from a big-time donor whose contributions \$2,000 or more, while only five percent of his contributors wrote checks of \$250 or less. Some say that's an indication that Markowitz lacks grass-roots support.

— Dana Rubinstein

Candidate	Percentage of big-time donors	Percentage of small-time donors	Total Funds Raised
Marty Markowitz	77 percent	5 percent	\$748,540
Adolfo Carrion	23 percent	31 percent	more than \$15 million
Betty Gotbaum	20 percent	33 percent	\$163,915
William Thompson	30 percent	12 percent	\$1,169,394
Anthony Weiner	46 percent	20 percent	\$2,088,360

Source: New York City Campaign Finance Board

Carroll Park thugs won't bring 'Angels'



By Michael McLaughlin
for The Brooklyn Paper

Contrary to promises made on his radio program, Curtis Silva will not deploy the Guardian Angels to Carroll Park after rock and water-ballooning teenagers made headlines last week by terrorizing families and park employees on two straight days.

The unruliness began last Tuesday when some rowdy play by a group of teens got too close for comfort for one father and his 3-year-old, the New York Post reported. The teens responded to the father's request to move away by throwing small stones and hard candy at him and his son. Another group of teenagers tormented an adult and three smaller children with water balloons the following day.

Silva, who founded the Angels, mentioned the incidents on his WABC radio show last Friday. He said the Angels would be coming to protect the park, but later said his comments were meant as a joke.

"Rocks, water balloons, that's obviously some-thing," Silva said.

See **PUNKS** on page 14

New A.R.E.A. code

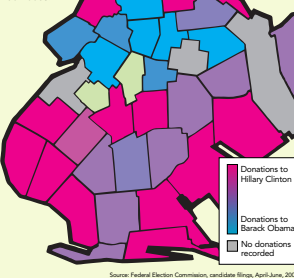
Arena Bagels — the Park Slope bagelry near the Atlantic Yards that ran afoul of Bruce Ratner's opponents because the shop's name suggested that the mega-development was inevitable — is now officially A.R.E.A. Bagels.

SEE STORY, PAGE 14

The Battle for the Soul of Brooklyn

Borough haul

Although Illinois Sen. Barack Obama raised more money nationwide than our own Sen. Hillary Clinton last quarter, in Brooklyn, Clinton beat back the Obama challenge, raising \$255,034 to his \$135,912. But a breakdown shows that Obama actually raised more money than Clinton in some key neighborhoods:



Source: Federal Election Commission, candidate filings, April-June, 2007

Obama and Clinton fighting ZIP by ZIP

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE by Geri Kuntzman
DECISION 2008

Enough with the numbers. Can't you see what's happening here? We're in the middle of a battle for the soul of Brooklyn.

In this corner, Sen. Clinton, bolstered by a much-loved (no pun intended) husband, years of experience and a well-calculated move to the center. Scars include her much-reviled vote to support the use of force in Iraq and that well-calculated move to the center.

In the other corner, the eleven-year-old Senator from Illinois weighing in at, well, not much weight at all. But he's got the war! And he's African-American! And he's progressive!

Let's get ready to rumble. Top Democrats were eager to join the fray.

"Park Slope likes Obama because the neighborhood is more anti-war and pro-activism, while Brooklyn Heights is more old-line establishment," said Alan Fleishman, one of two Democratic leaders for the assembly district that spans both neighborhoods.

The Heights also has the corporate money, the Wall Street money, and those people believe Hillary will be the nominee and they want to go with a winner.

What, and Slopes like to lose? "Not lose, but they're a little more edgy and idealistic," Fleishman said.

Edgy and idealistic were certainly not the words that came to mind when Rep. Yvette Clarke, after months of hemming and hawing, finally endorsed Clinton last week.

"After careful deliberations... I am convinced that Sen. Clinton is best able to win and bring much-needed change to the White House," said Clarke, whose district includes parts of the Slope and the Heights. "The depth of Hillary's experience will allow her to hit the ground running on her first day in office."

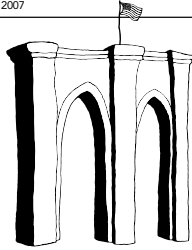
Clinton's supporters in the Heights also emphasized their candidate's years in government as a positive.

See **ANGLE** on page 14



Running man

There's no way he's 70! Edward Baker goes for a run in front of the Fort Greene building. To see how he does it, visit The Stoop, at BrooklynPaper.com



THE stoop

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS—DOWNTOWN DUMBO

Nabe needs PO to be a nabe

DUMBO is rapidly becoming a real Brooklyn neighborhood: it has restaurants, convenience stores, new condos, street construction, and controversy over development projects. But DUMBO doesn't have the one thing that would make it official: a post office.

That could change very soon. The USPS has been looking for space to set up shop, and soon, DUMBO-ties (DUMBOers? DUMBOians?) Or just plain DUMBOs?) will be able to buy stamps, weigh packages, and do all those other postal things that currently require schlepping up a big hill to the main post office on Cadman Plaza East.

The planned DUMBO mail center will be a "full-service Automated Postal Center," according to the postal service. In layman's terms, that means it's basically a giant postal vending machine. The APC won't be manned by any employees, but it can do everything a regular post office can — except dispense money orders — and it can be open 24 hours a day.

With no postal workers to get disgruntled! The APC would replace the "mobile post office" that serves the neighborhood by parking on Front Street for two or three hours most mornings. There's often a line outside the window — and if you want to buy stamps in the afternoon, you have to make the hike up the hill.

"It's been a nightmare," said Bill Vitello, who works in the area. "Even buying stamps, it's a pain in the neck."

The USPS has been planning to put a post office in DUMBO for a year, according to a spokesperson, but the company first publicized its intentions known a month ago, when it took out an ad in The Brooklyn Paper seeking a lease on a 1,000-square-foot space.

It doesn't seem like the postal service will have any difficulty finding room, since you can't swing a stick in DUMBO without hitting a "commercial space for lease" sign.

The major players, though, aren't all that interested. Shanya Boyemgren, who owns the just-starting-to-be-inhabited Beacon Tower, said through a spokesperson that he wasn't going to respond to the postal service ad. The David Wakstein-owned Two Trees suggested that would-be tenants should call to inquire about a lease, not the other way around. And Alex Harwitz, who's developing the J Condo building, said he wasn't sure he had space.

The USPS would not reveal which exact locations it was considering, but a spokesperson said the agency had received bids and was still weighing options.

The automated center could open by next year.

A post office will validate DUMBO's existence in a way that the upscale coffee shops in the world cannot. In the old west, towns needed post offices to connect to the outside world, and a town without a post office was nothing, not even a spot on the map. No one can accuse DUMBO of not being connected to the outside world, but nothing says "real neighborhood" like standing in a long line to be berated across a bullet-proof shield by a counter clerk for filling out the wrong "registered mail" form. Just ask the folks in Kensington! It's not just a symbolic step for the brand-new neighborhood. Without a full-service post office, DUMBO can hardly claim to be self-sufficient. Imagine buying a condo in one of the new, ritzy buildings that have sprouted up all around the two bridges, and then finding out that if you want some stamps, you have to leave the hood. It's only a minor inconvenience, but if enough people have the same minor inconvenience, it becomes a major hassle. And you don't buy a \$2-million condo to deal with hassles.

Harry Chadda, a student at the Pratt Institute, is an intern at The Brooklyn Paper

HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



Harry Chadda



This bike path on Henry Street, like others in the borough, was just painted green.

Green day

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights residents are doing their best to think positively about the neon-green bike lane recently painted along Henry Street, between Amity and Clark streets.

"We should be glad that it's not a less-compatible color," said Judy Stanton, who, as head of the Brooklyn Heights Association, received about 10 irate phone calls from aesthetically offended residents.

But Stanton asked her constituents to relax. "It matches the tree canopy," she said. "They could have chosen yellow, and I don't think people would have liked bright yellow, or orange, or purple."

The city's Department of Transportation created the lane as part of an experimental bike-share plan. For more than a year, a blue-laned bike lane has stretched along Jay Street from Sands Street to Concord Street.

Many bikers get confused, however, thinking the colored lane means that bikers can travel in either direction. That is not the case.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Ben Kingsley was on **Columbus Heights** on July 17 filming his new movie, "The Wackness," directed by Jonathan Levine. Hopefully it isn't as bad as its title. He'll always be Gandhi to us... Protect and serve who? A **DUMBO meter maid** told The Stoop to "call the cops" when we informed her that a cop car had illegally parked on a Washington Street sidewalk a few feet from where she was ticketing other law-breaking autos. "You got a problem with it?" the uniformed police officer asked us, before making her seemingly redundant suggestion... Topping out Downtown: Construction workers have put the 25th and final floor on **BEISchermerhorn**, a residential tower at 189 Schermerhorn St. The luxury skyscraper is scheduled to be completely done in 2008. Also topped out this week was the 40-story **Oro** at 306 Gold St. and Flatbush Avenue Extension, a 303-unit condo tower slated to be completed in 2009. Champagne is in order for the **Downtown Brooklyn Partnership**.

Email: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

DeBlasio hates an architect

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilman Bill DeBlasio vowed to stop one of the borough's most prolific architects this week, charging designer Robert Scarno with endangering the safety and aesthetic character of Brooklyn's neighborhoods.

"It's become clear to me that he's dangerous and that he needs to be confronted and stopped," said DeBlasio, who journeyed from his Carroll Gardens district to a Downtown press conference this week.

DeBlasio asked the Department of Buildings to halt construction on a whopping 350 projects designed by the DUMBO-based architect while the state Education Department investigates him for professional misconduct.

Scarno declined to comment on DeBlasio's demand, which stemmed from concerns in Carroll Gardens about a six-story, Scarno-designed apartment building slated to rise on the corner of Second Place and Smith Street.

But some opponents of the 60-foot building — which conforms to existing zoning — worried that DeBlasio's bombast would actually get in the way of a larger effort against what they view as out-of-scale development.

"The zoning code, not the architect, is the issue," said Triada Samara, a member of Carroll Gardens Coalition for Respectful Development. "Our concerns are traffic, the number of new residents the people would bring and the density and scale of the project."

"This may be a waste of extremely valuable time," she added.

But DeBlasio said that the battle against the architect is the first step in forcing developers to comply with neighborhood desires.



Councilman Bill DeBlasio wants to pull architect Robert Scarno's license.

New AIDS clinic is set for Downtown

for The Brooklyn Paper

An HIV/AIDS health center for women will move into a neighborhood increasingly known less for its social service agencies than for its rising population of luxury residential towers.

The \$3-million, 11,000-square-foot Housing Works center, located in the housing of 57 Wiloughby St., between Jay and Lawrence streets, will offer primary health care, dental care, and mental health services to Housing Works clients.

The organization's spokesman, Ronald Abadi, said he was not worried that the rising real-estate prices would ultimately push the center out of its new digs. "We have a 10-year lease so we'll be here for quite a while," said Abadi.

The new space is designed to feel less like a medical clinic and more like a community center. "We want this to be a special place — different from the feel of a clinic," said Michelle Kaliski, who registers clients at the new center.

In addition to helping women find housing, food, social services, and medical and mental health care, the center will offer art therapy, a Pilates gym, yoga and aerobics classes, and a small day care area. It opened on Friday.

— Beethoven Bong

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By Chris Cascarano
for The Brooklyn Paper**84th Precinct**

A disabled woman was robbed of her handbag by a purse snatcher and a Roller-blading teen on July 12.

The 55-year-old woman was walking on Fulton Street, near Bridge Street, when a woman approached on foot and snatched the victim's purse right off her walker.

When the woman attempted to retrieve the purse, the thief tossed it over to a teenage boy on Rollerblades, who skated away.

The bag had contained \$400.

Swiped cards
A thief made off with snafu of valuable trading cards last month from an Atlantic Avenue store.

The teenager snatched two binders full of Yu-Gi-Oh cards while the store's clerk was organizing them. The clerk gave chase, but lost the game-loving teen as he made off with \$3,000 in fantasy trading cards.

Police said the thief is near a regular at the store, which is near the corner of Smith Street, and has been identified.

Beat up!

A teenager was attacked and beaten by two men near the corner of the Hoyt and Fulton streets on July 7.

The teen was approached by the men, who began punching him in the face without warning, police said. They did not rob him, and he told cops that he had no prior beef with his assailants.

The beating left him with broken bones around his eye and abrasions on his face.

POLICE BLOTTER**Tug o' bag**

A mugger made off with a woman's purse on July 10, partly due to faulty manufacturing.

The 36-year-old victim was walking on Greene Avenue at around midnight. As she approached Clement Avenue, the perp came up from behind and

Co-worker?

A man's motorcycle was stolen on July 10 while he was in court.

The man told police that he had parked the 2007 Kawasaki at Smith and Schermerhorn streets before heading into the courthouse. When the 33-year-old returned, the \$15,000 bike was gone.

88th Precinct
This thief not only took the jewelry, but the evidence, too.

After taking a man's expensive gold chain — last seen on a desk inside a Willoughby Street office building — the crook then took the footage of the crime right out of the DVD recorder that had just captured it.

The rose gold chain and cross, valued at \$8,000, went missing about 2 p.m. from the building, which is near Jay Street.

Mover violation

Apparently, the guy really needed help moving.

Someone sneaked into the Park Avenue lot of a company that specializes in renting moving trucks and made off with one of the heavy-duty haulers on July 9.

The lot, which is near Hall Street, was robbed at 2:30 p.m. Police have made one arrest so far, but have not recovered the truck.

Hook is burning

The "broken windows" theory is alive and well in Red Hook.

Early on July 10, a blue Chevy SUV was set afire on a cobblestoned stretch of Beard Street near Dwight Street, facing a former shipyard where Ikea is building its first Brooklyn store, cops said.

Police don't know why the truck was set on fire — maybe for insurance money, maybe to cover a crime — but in the week that followed the blaze, the auto carcass has turned into a dumping ground.

"People see that it's a place that they can get away with dumping things, so they dump things," said one Beard Street resident, noting that a week after the fire, none of garbage had been picked up.

First came an assortment of forsaken business supplies, including a Formica display case

and some crates filled with packaging from new auto parts.

A day or two later, a cardboard box of dog-eared religious texts was left in the cracked sidewalk next to the charred SUV. A reporter noted a copy of the "Book of Mormon" in decent condition and a paperback biography of Mother Theresa lying near the top of the stack.

The Beard Street resident said the abandoned car — and the mini-dump it has spawned — reminded him of an abandoned city plan to build a waste transfer station at the end of the street.

"Changing a waste-transfer station, a big-box furniture store, or a burnt-out automobile on the block amounts to the same thing," he said. "Red Hook has always been a dumping ground and that is not changing."

Five cars were burned on the same block between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15 last year, another neighbor said.

Red Hook Fairway developer Greg O'Connell, who owns buildings on Beard Street, said that the block once was even more of a magnet for trash. He remembers catching people illegally dumping tires near the warehouse that now houses the gourmet grocer.

"Now there's more eyes on the street, so the dumping doesn't happen the as much as it used to," he said, adding that when Ikea opens next year the security cameras and crowds will force the dumpers to go elsewhere.

— Ariella Cohen

grabbed her handbag. The woman wasn't about to let him have it, and they pulled back and forth until the handles broke off in the woman's hand.

There was no money in the bag, but the mugger got a \$600 cellphone.

Lap o' luxury

Early on July 9, a thief broke into a man's 2000 Ferrari, which had been parked on the corner of Fort Greene Place and DeKalb Avenue. The perp broke a window and took a \$1,200 laptop

and a \$300 digital camera out of the luxury car.

Carjacked!
The man parked his gray 2006 Acura sedan near the corner of Clermont and Lafayette avenues at 9:30 p.m. on July 10, but when he came back 90 minutes later, it had vanished.

Bottled-up rage
An argument between a pair of sisters and another woman book a violent turn on July 12.

The verbal dispute, which occurred in the courtyard of a building on Fulton Street between Adelpi and Clermont avenues, got physical when the woman broke a bottle and went after the sisters, aged 19 and 20. One was struck in the nose, and the other was raked across her face, causing lacerations on her eye.

The police canvassed the area and found a suspect on a nearby corner. She resisted arrest, violently hitting her men about, cops said.

Beggar basher

A beggar slugged a man in the face after he declined his request for a dollar on July 12.

The victim was walking on Carlton Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Fulton Street at around 6:45 p.m. when a stranger approached and asked for the buck.

When the man declined, the panhandler punched him in the face hard enough to cause swelling and bleeding from the mouth, cops said.

The attacker ran off without getting his dollar.

— with Harry Chaele



A burnt-out car in Red Hook.

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THE STOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL RED HOOK

Crying in beer in Red Hook

Hof Red Hook is turning cold one year after New York's gentrification guard branded it — the neighborhood that birthed "On the Waterfront" — as the Next Big Thing.

Last summer, anything seemed possible on Van Brunt Street. Big-time broker Barbara Corcoran had recently paid \$1-million for one of the dog's narrow, 19th-century buildings. Fairway foodies were stopping at the Old Pioneer for post-grocery beers, and every balmy evening brought another fancy-people caravan to eat small plates of costly, farm-raised food at 360 and the Good Fork.



Ariella Cohen

This July, the outlook is bleaker. Post 360 is closed, with the metal gate rolled down for an indefinite period of time. Also dark is the Old Pioneer, which owners plan to sell because of lagging profits. Over on Commerce Street, the Hook is turning off its distortion pedals and shutting down after a noisy attempt to become Brooklyn's most post-punk rock grounds.

My favorite bookstore, Freshie on nearby Columbia Street, is for sale on Craig's List, as is another Columbia Street establishment, Lido bar. Already sold is the Liberty Heights Tap Room on Van Dyke Street, which reopened late last month as Rocky Sullivan's, an Irish-themed, Manhattan-style pub.

To add to the despair, soon enough Red Hookers won't even be able to drown the bad news in a bottle of good bourbon.

LeNell's — a Van Brunt Street-born liquor store that is so at one with the neighborhood that it sells its own brand of Red Hook Rye — learned recently that it will have to leave its 416 Van Brunt St. location next summer because the building's owner wants to use the storefront for his own business.

Tonya "LeNell" Smothers, the booze boutique's owner, said she wants to stay in the hood, but where she will end up remains murky as watered-down ozo.

"Red Hook is a difficult place to run a business and I will leave it at that," she said. Even the Landmark at 282 Van Brunt St. has a "For Rent" sign in the front window — a disaster in the making as this is the only washing machine for a mile.

But most alarming is the loss of local drinking establishments. "Maybe Red Hook is no longer summer camp for alcoholics," said Chris Curren, an authority on drinking customs. Curren sees the demise of Van Brunt Street's Old Pioneer as fallout from the neighborhood's hyping.

"Landlords are seeing dollar signs and not the reality," he said, knocking back a Budweiser at his customary stool at the Bait and Tackle on Van Brunt Street at Pioneer Street, which is "not going anywhere," according to co-owner Edie Stone.

Stone said she and her B & T co-owners were considering selling the tavern before hearing of the demise of the Old Pioneer next door, a bar that helped create a booze ally atmosphere on the block. Now, they have decided to stay open.

The Pioneer is closing. Lido's is closing. Sunny's is only open three nights a week. How could there be Red Hook without a bar?" she asked incredulously.

People sell businesses for reasons that range from the personal and idiosyncratic to the global. An over-hyped market is partly to blame, but so is another villain: laziness. Not enough people travel across Brooklyn-Queens Expressway to visit Red Hook's restaurants, bars and galleries. Do it this summer.

You won't regret it. And if you do, at least LeNell will still be around to help you forget.

Ariella Cohen is a staff reporter for The Brooklyn Paper

Book 'em! BookCourt grows

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

A hot spot for the bookish is growing up — and out.

In a bid to increase its nighttime appeal, BookCourt is adding a new café and backyard garden to the rear of its 163 Court St. shop, creating a stage for readings and more space for bookworms to mingle.

"Over the last few years, more single people have moved to the neighborhood and we want to bring them in at night," said Henry Zook, who opened the store with co-owner Mary Gannett in 1981 and now runs it with Gannett and their 23-year-old son, Zack.

The elder Zook said that they have not ruled out eventually obtaining a license to serve beer and wine at the new café — an addition that would help the store compete with literary nightspots like the KGB Bar in Manhattan or Pete's Candy Store in Williamsburg. He credits his son for coming up with that idea.

"He knows more about what young people going out do," he explained.

Zack Zook — an easygoing, mop-topped storekeeper who grew up in an apartment above the store and can now often be found discussing recent reads over a cigarette on a wooden



The owners of BookCourt are planning a major renovation that will double the size of the store. Here, family members and owners (left to right) Henry Zook, Zack Zook and Mary Gannett stand in what will be their future reading room.

bench in front of the building — credits BookCourt's "sophisticated and brilliant" customers for its continued growth, which comes at a time when many similar, independent book shops are struggling to survive.

"We are in touch with what people want to read, in a way that we couldn't be without so many authors and writers around to talk to and keep up with," he said.

One of those authors is Jonathan Ames, a novelist and the author of "I Love You More than You Know," a book of essays published last year.

Ames already regards the bookstore as a hot nighttime spot.

"It's sort of my equivalent of a favorite watering hole, especially since I don't have a favorite watering hole," he said.

Another local writer, Jonathan Lethem, chose the store last year as the exclusive sales location for a book of photographs and essays about Brooklyn called "Patchwork Planet."

The one-story addition will be built behind the store in a yard once occupied by a greenhouse that was torn down in June. Zack Zook, who calls the store a "third parent," said he expects the new addition to be complete in September with the café opening soon after.

City owns an area 'crack house'

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

Terrified residents of Boerum Hill say that crack dealers and their customers are operating out of a St. Marks Avenue building — a building that is actually owned by the city.

The building, at 31 St. Marks Ave., between Third and Fourth avenues, is a dilapidated, three-story brownstone owned and

managed by the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

And neighbors are demanding that the city take action (against the dealers and, apparently, itself).

"There's had a lot of drug-dealing," said a neighbor, who didn't want his name printed for fear of souring relations with his drug-dealing neighbors. "It's a parade of addicts."

On a recent evening, about five youths hung out on the stoop and, during a half-hour, greeted various visitors. At least one, a boy in a white T-shirt who seemed to be in charge of the stoop and then exchanged a small package for cash with one of those visitors.

The site, which houses three rental apartments, has been a hot spot for years, according to neighbors and cops, who discussed the problem at a recent meeting of the 84th Precinct Community Council. Following a shooting a few years ago, the police increased their presence, and things quieted down.

"But just this year, when the summer came, everything accelerated," said the neighbor. "You'd have to be pretty naïve to miss it. People exchanging packets and cash. It's really weird to me. I would think they would find someplace a little more isolated."

His neighbor agreed, saying, "Lately, it's been really egregious."

It's a problem that's on the

radar of both Housing Preservation and Development and the cops.

"We are aware of the allegations of drug activity and are working with the NYPD," said William Coleman, a spokesman for the agency.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gary Williams of the 84th Precinct said cops are doing the best they can to quash the problem.

"We are constantly on it," said Williams.

Indeed, according to the police, a beat cop has repeatedly tried to keep the drug dealers off the stoop. But because the dealers recognize him, he can never catch them in the act.

"They use cellphones to communicate," said the male neighbor. "But I'm not an expert on these things."

The police have since requested the assistance of undercover narcotics cops, who work with the neighbors.

Meanwhile, nearby residents are annoyed to see cop results.

"It's like a throwback to the '80s or something," said the man who lives nearby.

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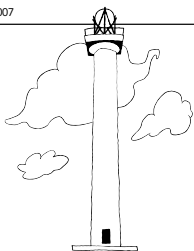
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THE STOOP

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Crying in my tofu chicken

Mobay, purveyor of the finest veggie-chicken root from Fort Greene to Montego Bay, is dead. That enormous maroon and gold sign in the window claiming that Mobay is merely "closed for vacation" through July 30 is a beard, a mocking joke, a fantasy.

"We are closing," Sharon Barnes, owner of the illustrious Caribbean food joint, told us on Tuesday. "It was a very heartbreaking situation and a heartbreaking decision to make."

I suppose we can take some comfort in the fact that, contrary to knee-jerk prognoses, this is not another casualty of gentrification. "In all honesty, it was not the rent," said Barnes. "We had a fairly decent rent. It's a matter of stress. [My mother] is 67 now. And she's been managing the restaurant."

From the beginning, Mobay has been a mother-daughter affair. Barnes and her mother, Annette Hew, opened the DeKalb Avenue restaurant, which is between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street, in 2000. Barnes's Jamaican-Chinese aunt, Avis Hoo, helped develop the menu and train the staff.

Barnes soon expanded the business into a culinary empire, opening a second Mobay and a third restaurant called Baton Rouge, both in Harlem. While Barnes looked after the Manhattan botches, her mom oversaw operations at the original Mobay.

The stress of managing a restaurant soon began to strain Hew's health. "There comes a point that you have to weigh the value of life," said Barnes. "It was too much for her. Now she's retired, relaxing and enjoying life."

As far as reasons go for closing shop, that's a pretty good one. But what about our enjoyment? Where will the legions of neighborhood vegetarians go when they're yearning for fake barbecued chicken, the tangy sauce leaking onto some crusty mac-and-cheese and pork-free collard greens?

Red Bamboo? Please. That place can barely get fake chicken parmigiana right.

For one thing, I'll probably have a thicker wallet. Of late, the prices at Mobay had bordered on the outrageous (\$15.75 for salmon that's not even salmon!). In fact, the last time my cravings for fake Jamaican meat got too overpowering, I snatched inside to find that the restaurant had raised its more affordable lunch menu. I repurposed to Green Apple Cafe next door, not knowing that I had just thrown away what would be my last chance to savor Mobay.

"But the fat lady hasn't sung yet," she laughed.

Perhaps the saddest loss is that Barnes does have plans to return to the borough that birthed her restaurant empire (though not necessarily to Fort Greene).

"Our plan is to reopen as a franchise in Brooklyn," she said. "Fort Greene is definitely one neighborhood that would be a good one."

"We love Brooklyn," she added. "That's where we started."

GREENE ACRES

Dana Rubinstein

Swift senior nets gold



There's no way he's 70! Edward Baker prepares for a run in front of his Fort Greene building.

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

There's no way Edward Baker is 70 years old. Look at him. He's chiseled. Watch him: he can run the 100-meter dash in 15.2 seconds — faster than men half his age.

So it's no surprise that the fleet-footed Fort Greene grandpa took the gold medal in the Empire State Senior Games 100-meter dash, giving a new meaning to the phrase, "getting old fast."

Baker outran three other gray-haired men with a time that, by most standards, is impressive.

After all, the world record for the men's 100-meter dash is 9.77 seconds — and the men who ran it were far younger.

"It's an exceptional time," said Steve Bond, 55, president of the Brooklyn Road Runners Club. "I may not even beat the 15 seconds," he added.

Then again, Baker, who also took home the silver medal in the 200-meter race by running it in 33.8 seconds, has been honing his skills for more than half a century.

He told The Stoop that he's been sprinting since he was 11 years old. And he continues to maintain a strict physical regimen.

"On Mondays, it's the gym," said Baker, a Guyanese native and 15-year Fort Greene resident. "Tuesday, it's the swimming pool. Wednesday, I rest. Thursday, it's the track [at Clement and Atlantic avenues]. And Saturday, it's the track."

"I just love the sport and I like to keep myself physically fit," added Baker, a former storeman clerk for the state Department of Health. "It helps with my cholesterol and weight."

The Empire State Senior Games were held in June at SUNY Cortland. "The win meant a lot to me," said Baker. "I was getting silver for the last four years."

For those who would like to emulate him, Baker offered a common-sense tip reminiscent of our fearless president.

"Just stay at it and stay the course," said Baker. "It doesn't happen overnight. It's hard."

Catch him if you can.

A new mansion on the 'Hill'?

The Brooklyn Paper

A modernist riff on the courtyard-centric style of Mediterranean architecture is rising in Clinton Hill.

Two curved-glass, six-story buildings will mirror each other across a green divide, complete with a central reflecting pool and lawn furniture, on two conjoined lots stretching from Vanderbilt to Clement avenues.

"It's a unique building in Clinton Hill," said David Stuart, an associate at the architecture firm, Melton/Mandi Architects, which designed the project. "This center court, which we sometimes like to think of as an

oasis, with these cascading balconies, it's not really a New York kind of model. It's almost kind of Mediterranean or southern."

The prices for entry into this modern-day oasis are, surprisingly, somewhat manageable, considering the development's location between Willoughby and Myrtle avenues in prime Fort Greene.

The 73 condos should range in price from \$250,000 for a studio to \$1.1 million for a three-bedroom. The buildings, which replaced two commercial warehouses, are slated for completion in the summer of 2008.

— Dana Rubinstein



A rendering of proposed apartment building on Vanderbilt Avenue near Myrtle Avenue.

FG-CH downzone movin' on up

The Brooklyn Paper

The city is only one step away from making it more difficult to build towering, out-of-scale buildings in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, like the 18-story building threatening to rise on a residential block of Washington Avenue.

On July 11, the City Planning Commission unanimously OK'd

the rezoning of 99 blocks in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, tightening the height restrictions, and allowing for more growth on commercial Fulton Street and Myrtle Avenue.

The City Council will hold a hearing on the plan on Monday and vote on it on Wednesday. If approved as expected, the plan will become law on July 26.

The issue gained greater attention thanks to the controversial tower planned for 163 Washington Ave., between Myrtle and Park avenues, but has been on the Brooklyn radar screen for some time now. Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and parts of Park Slope have all been downzoned recently, and residents of Carroll Gardens are

pushing for a similar measure. If the developers of the building get their foundation in the ground by the final vote, the Buildings Department will mostly likely "grandfather" the project in and allow it to rise.

"It will be down to the wire," said Jane Zusi, a Clinton Hill neighbor who has been fighting the developers.

Some builders complain that downzoning leads to less construction of much-needed housing.

— Dana Rubinstein

ON OUR OTHER STOOP

COBBLE HILL — BookCourt grows DUMBO is it coming?
BAY RIDGE — Well stopped
WILMINGTON — Pool party?

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that's not even salmon!). In fact, the last time my cravings for fake Jamaican meat got too overpowering, I snatched inside to find that the restaurant had raised its more affordable lunch menu. I repurposed to Green Apple Cafe next door, not knowing that I had just thrown away what would be my last chance to savor Mobay.

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THE KITCHEN SINK

Profit Institute announced that its sculpture park will be part of the Open House New York tour in October — for the very first time! The event provides architecture lovers with a peek inside normally private residences. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce honored Navy Yard head honcho (and Park Slope family man) Andrew Kimball on Wednesday for his "strategic vision" in transforming the neglected space into a thriving industrial park and the home of Steiner Studios — the New York movie industry's cutting-edge answer to Hollywood.

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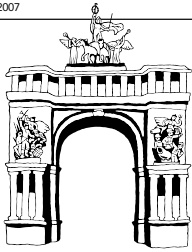
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THE stoop

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK
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Slope creeps as city sleeps

That the universe is expanding may be an occasion for dread, but what about the expansion of Park Slope? Well, here's good news: Visits to several Seventh Avenue real-estate offices revealed that the Slope's expansion is due less to general-relativistic necessity than to market forces.

When asked to identify the southern boundary of Park Slope, brokers frown or smile, depending on how long they've been in the business. Roughly speaking, the newer the agent the broader her Slope.

"In order to attract buyers, people describe neighborhoods as Park Slope that aren't Park Slope," an agent told me before he noticed his boss glowering at him. Borders are a touchy subject, even here.

Everyone agrees that the Slope is bounded by Flatbush Avenue to the north and by Prospect Park West to the east. That's just simple geography. And clearly the "prime Slope blocks" are demarcated by the 34-year-old lines marking the Park Slope Historic District, which runs roughly between Seventh Avenue and the park from St. Johns Place to Third Street and between Eighth Avenue and the park from Fourth to 14th Street.

Ah, but what of the neighborhood's western and southern frontiers? Many say the western border is Fourth Avenue, but the opinion is hardly unanimous. Lee Solomon of Brown Harris Stevens sets it instead at Third Avenue (well, of course she does), but Janice Cimberg, whose desk is beside Lee's, sniffs.

"That's Governor," she said.

Oh, yeah, retorted Lee: "We'll see when Whole Foods gets here if they call it Whole Foods Organic or Whole Foods Park Slope." Touché!

There are always these *min derlinien* [in-between places], Cimberg said with a shrug.

But the most-heated disagreements are about the southern border. Some say it runs parallel to the southern edge of Prospect Park, at 15th Street; others, at Prospect Avenue, beside the Prospect Expressway; still others, at 24th Street, at the southwestern corner of Green-Wood Cemetery.

"The Prospect Expressway to 24th Street, that's the contested area," said Irene Levinson of Brooklyn Properties. "That South Slope? Some call it the 'South South Slope.' Some call it 'Green-Wood Heights.'"

South South Slope may be unwieldy, but it's also quasi-official: in its 2005 rezoning plan, the Department of Planning referred to the area "bounded by 15th Street on the north, Fourth Avenue on the west, Prospect Park West on the east, and 24th Street and Green-Wood Cemetery on the south" as South Park Slope.

"Green-Wood Heights" hasn't really caught on. Agents use it tentatively, maybe because it sounds like a synonym for death, a la "the big sleep," "Abraham's bosom," or "Davy Jones's locker." ("Hand over the cash or you're going to Green-Wood Heights.")

"Neighbors didn't need to be named 'til real estate got involved," said Anna Anderson of Ortrichio Anderson. "The salt of the earth would say, I live on this street or that one." Real-estate agents may regret the passing of a more geographically certain era, but their work requires them to accept the extension of the brand that Park Slope has become.

"People didn't come here in the 1970s for the latte," Lee Solomon said. "Park Slope today is a frame of mind."

It happens that as you head south you can get the frame for a bit less.

Jimmy Wallenstein is a freelance writer and educator who lives in Park Slope and has a great dog.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Are pet shops becoming politically incorrect? Could be. Some bloggers are in an uproar over the opening of a new store on Flatbush and Sixth avenues called **Pup Slope**. "If they're selling dogs and cats while animals [on the outside] are being euthanized for lack of homes, I'll never spend a single damn cent in there," said an anonymous poster on Brooklyn.com. The facade bloggers presumably don't speak for all their neighbors, many of whom are likely to welcome a new business filling an obvious gap. McOW! ...

New York Methodist Hospital continues to keep busy, observing "World Breast-Feeding Month" with an all day Aug. 1 health fair about how best to suckle your baby. To find out more, call (718) 783-5881. **Park Slope Civic Council's** new president, **Ken Freeman**, just scored yet another huge sale for his brokerage firm, **Massey Knakal**. Freeman brokered the \$4.7-million sale of two post-war buildings on Sackett Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. Congrats, Ken! Now about that three-bdm w-WBFP, WIC, EIK and park va... Email us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

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5th Av shelter gets the nod

By **Chris Cascarano**

for *The Brooklyn Paper*

After months of debate and negotiations with neighbors, an affordable housing facility has finally been approved for the corner of Fifth Avenue and 16th Street.

The City Council unanimously approved the controversial building this week, clearing the way for a municipal parking lot to be transformed into 49 studio apartments for the formerly homeless, low-income elderly, and people with HIV.

The vote came after nearly a year of objections to the project, proposed by the Fifth Avenue Committee.

Several neighbors, under the ad-hoc

group named "16th Street Action," claimed that putting low-income housing and formerly homeless tenants at the site would be bad in an up-and-coming neighborhood.

"I live next door, and my children will be walking home right past the entrance to this building," said Matthew Dwyer, a co-founder of 16th Street Action. "I don't want them to be at risk."

But such comments did not persuade Community Board 7, which approved the proposal earlier this year. It was subsequently rejected by Borough President Markowitz on the grounds that some units should be set aside for families, but Markowitz's concerns were ignored in subsequent negotiations. The proposal then sailed through the Planning

Commission, a precursor to this week's Council rubber stamp.

During negotiations, the Fifth Avenue Committee did agree to relocate the entrance of the building from quiet 16th Street to busier Fifth Avenue.

And in another compromise, the group agreed to limit the number of mentally ill residents and fill their slots with people with AIDS, said Michelle De La Uz, executive director of the Fifth Avenue Committee.

"This was a way to cut down on the number of mentally ill homeless who will be living in the building," De La Uz said.

Construction of the five-story building will begin in late fall and take only 18 months, De La Uz said.

Slope Chocolate Girl is kosher

New cocoa nut says nabe will flip for untrayf treats

By **Dana Rubinstein**

for *The Brooklyn Paper*

The new chocolate maker in town wants Park Slope's picky foodies to know that "kosher" and "gourmet" needn't be as incompatible as oil and water.

"Quality can be kosher, too," said Tipahor Avigayil Jaeger, 26, proprietor of Chocolate Girl, a chocolate shop that will open on Seventh Avenue on Wednesday.

"It's gourmet chocolate, and it just happens to be kosher," said Jaeger, who lives in Midwood. "I only use top-quality ingredients."

Pure chocolate is essentially parve, or non-dairy, Jaeger pointed out. It's the additives, like milk and flour, which can render some chocolate un-kosher.

Jaeger imports her chocolate from a kosher company in Belgium. She tempers and bakes the sweet confection here in Brooklyn, where she has separate kitchens for dairy and non-dairy, and she has the treats certified again by Rabbi Avner Katz.

Jaeger's confident that discerning Park Slope foodies will agree that the kosher certification is no more than "an added bonus." As long as the chocolate's up to snuff, she's probably right.

"If you can make gourmet chocolate, you can make gourmet kosher chocolate," said Park Slope chocolate eater Emily Falk.

Justin Jarboe, a Fort Greene fellow-traveler, agreed, even going so far as to claim that kosher food tends to be of "higher quality" than regular food.

One thing's for sure. Park Slope is nothing if not exacting when it comes to food, home as it is to culinary marvels like Al Di La and Applewood, not to mention two existing chocolate shops — Cocoa Bar, on Seventh Avenue between Third and Fourth streets, and the Chocolate Room, on Fifth Avenue, between St. Marks Avenue and Warren Street.

Plus, every store in the neighborhood — from the Food Coop to the corner bodega — has a shelf with gourmet, 70-percent cocoa, organic, fair trade, single estate bars.



Photo by [unreadable]

Chocolate Girl owner Tipahor Jaeger and a sample of her high-end kosher chocolates in her store on Seventh Avenue.

YMCA pool is a splash with CB6

By **Michael McLaughlin**

for *The Brooklyn Paper*

The Prospect Park YMCA won a symbolic show of support for its plan to create a new pool when a Community Board 6 committee unanimously approved the Y's plans for a new facility at its Ninth Street center.

The support was not unconditional, however. At a public hearing earlier this month, the land-use committee asked the YMCA to redesign the facade so that it would better match surrounding buildings.

"It looked too institutional," said Robert

Levine, a member of CB6.

Similar concerns came up at an earlier meeting this year when the Y presented the project to the block association on Eighth Street, which is on the other side of the wall from the proposed new pool.

With groundbreaking scheduled for the fall, it's not too late to alter the blueprints, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

The timing of the feedback was pretty opportune for us," he said.

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POLICE BLOTTER

BBQ gives up its fat

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

78th Precinct

Walters at Biscuit Barbecue on Fifth Avenue lost their night's tips and the entry lost its receipts — in an early morning robbery on July 15.

Cops said a thief or thieves broke through a rear door of the restaurant, at President Street, at around 1 a.m. Once inside, he pocketed envelopes containing \$4,200 (the restaurant's cash) and \$1,000 (the tips), and left.

Deathly crime

How low will some thieves go? Consider this: A thug stole a woman's bag as she was attending a funeral at a Ninth Street church on July 13.

According to police, the 53-year-old Staten Island woman had left her bag on a table at the church, which is at the corner of Fourth Avenue.

The bag contained the usual: a cellphone, credit and debit cards, identification, and \$150.

No one noticed the thief, so cops have no description to go on.

Got diamonds?

A thief who broke into a Second Street apartment while its tenant was away left with a pirate's booty of diamonds, gold and supplies, cops said.

The 27-year-old resident, whose apartment is near Fifth Avenue, told cops that she left the flat on June 29 and returned a week later to discover that rings of gold, diamond and supplies, plus a gold-and-diamond necklace, had been stolen.

The total value of the haul was \$10,200, cops said.

Skate punks?

Perhaps he just wanted to do some roller-skating. Someone broke into Wollman rink in Prospect Park on July 9, but didn't take anything, cops said.

According to police, the perp broke through a rear door sometime in the early morning hours, then broke into an inner office, yet stole nothing.

Low beating

A fist fight between two men in the parking lot of a popular Gowanus Canal-zone hardware store late on July 8 ended up with the arrests of both men, cops said.

It's unclear what started the 11 p.m. fight, but it escalated to the point where one man stabbed the other, a 46-year-old Red Hook resident, with some kind of dart or sharpened stick. The "victim" then hit his opponent, a 41-year-old Manhattan man, with a metal rod, cops said.

Police later charged both with assault. It will be up to the courts to sort it out.

A third man, also 41 of Manhattan, was injured in the melee, but not arrested. He told cops that the Red Hook man "started it."

Church hit

Two houses of worship were visited by an unholy spirit overnight on July 13, cops said.

The Park Slope United Methodist Church, which is on Sixth Avenue between Seventh and Eighth streets, was broken into sometime after 9 p.m. The thief tried to open several locked cabinets before he scooped up a power drill and a sander, and a camcorder valued at \$200.

Just a few hours later and one block away on Seventh Avenue, the Kingsborough Temple was broken into.

This time, the thief entered into an audio-visual room, as well as the pastor's study, where he took a digital camera, two lenses and a laptop computer.

Kiwi conned

A New Zealand native put her bag down for just a second on July 11 only to have a fleet-footed thief swipe it.

The 32-year-old Auckland visitor had set the bag down on Union Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 11 p.m. Seconds later, she noticed that the bag — which contained all manner of tourist gear, including a camera, a cellphone, sunglasses and a New York City travel guide — was missing.

The 32-year-old also lost a 10-ride ticket for the Watke ferry, beloved by all Aucklanders.

Check it out

A thief wrote out \$2,000 in checks after stealing three of the old-fashioned promissory notes from a 10th Street woman.

The victim told cops that someone had stolen three checks from her checkbook in her apartment, which is at Fourth Avenue, sometime between July 6 and July 9.

Conned Ed

Cops said they believe that an employee may have been involved in the theft of a piece of equipment valued at \$9,000 from a Con Ed facility on First Street earlier this month.

The power company told cops that the \$9,200 General Electric multi-line relay had been delivered on June 6 and placed in a storage area of the building, which is between Third and Fourth avenues.

But on July 11, when a worker went looking for the device, which is used in the distribution

of electrical power, he discovered that it was missing.

Cops say that the storage area is accessible only to employees.

Break in

Thousands of dollars in electronic equipment and jewelry were taken from a 14th Street apartment on July 9, cops said.

The 32-year-old resident told cops that she had left the flat, which is between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, at 8:40 a.m. and returned at 7 p.m. to find that her Dell computer, iPod, DVD player, camera, camcorder, CD player, Game Boy and assorted jewelry had been taken.

Ugly crime

A Flatbush Avenue beauty salon was hit — and lost equipment and cash — overnight on July 10, cops said.

The thief entered through the front door of the salon, which is between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, even though its owner told cops that the door had been secured when he left at 9 p.m. on July 9.

The thief walked off with an Andis "touch liner" and 12 blades, valued at \$1,000, and eight Oster trimmers, valued at \$1,200.

Cash out

A thief who broke into a Fourth Avenue apartment left with more than \$6,000 in cold cash on July 10.

The 33-year-old resident told cops that the crook broke through the front door of the apartment, which is between Butler and Baltic streets, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

4-buck chuck

A Massachusetts woman got a scare, but lost very little in material goods, during a horrifying early morning armed theft on July 15.

The 23-year-old woman had been walking on Sackett Street near Fifth Avenue at around 1 a.m. when two men surrounded her and one showed off a gun.

The thieves fled with only \$4 and various credit and ID cards.

Wheels gone

At least three vehicles were stolen off Park Slope streets. Here's the weekly roundup:

• A 1999 Honda Civic, parked on Second Street, between Seventh and Eighth, on July 6 was gone by the time its 27-year-old owner returned to it on July 12. The car, performed by thieves, despite its age, is valued at \$5,000.

• A 1994 Acura — and its \$1,000 airbags — was stolen from Second Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues at around 7:30 a.m. on July 10.

• A brand new Kawasaki motorcycle was swiped off Eighth Avenue. Its 29-year-old owner told cops that she had parked the chopper near the corner of Second Street on July 9 at 7 p.m. But by 8 p.m. on July 11, the \$6,600 wheels were gone.

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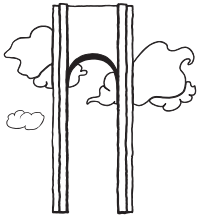
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THE STOOP

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS BATH BEACH

Skunk on Ridge attack

By Matthew Lysiak
The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge is starting to really stink, and I'm not just talking about the traffic on the Verrazano Bridge every weekday around 4:15 p.m. I mean, Bay Ridge is starting to stink, literally. Nature is both determined and unforgiving, and city life has a way of creating the illusion that we are insulated from her wrath, but every so often reality bites — or in this case sprays.

No sooner have Bay Ridge residents gotten accustomed to humming toadfish, raccoons and stroller moms, they now must make room for another intrusion of Mother Nature: the skunk. This story sounds more Tom Sawyer than Pepe LePew: a Bay Ridge man was innocently taking his garbage out in front of his Fourth Avenue apartment building late one mid-July night when he heard a rustling amongst the banana peels and coffee grinds.

"I thought it was a rat," said the victim, who wishes to remain anonymous out of embarrassment over what follows. "Living in Brooklyn, I have seen my share of rats, so I didn't treat the noise with any special urgency."

He soon did. First, he heard a squeal that sounded "almost like a baby-cry." Then, he found himself being attacked by a striped culprit.

"At first, I thought I was pepper-sprayed," said the victim. "After hearing the squeal, my eyes and mouth began to burn."

Full disclosure: after a night on the town, let's just say our source didn't begin this encounter with all of his senses at peak performance, so when the spray came, he dropped the rest of his garbage and ran back to his apartment and hopped in the shower. "I never did get a look at the skunk," the victim said. "I guess I must have scared it or something, but it isn't exactly something I am looking out for in Bay Ridge."

Lesson learned. But residents should consider themselves forewarned. The skunks are here, at least according to one expert, and they are here to stay. "We deal with city skunks every day of the week," said Matt Liska of Anytime Pest Removal, which removes pests nationwide. "There is nothing special to us about skunks in Brooklyn, except people's surprise that they live there."

Liska said that skunks rarely attack, and pointed out that they give lots of warnings (like stomping their feet and squealing) before spraying their powerful scent (which can travel up to 15 feet and burn an attacker's eyes) in a purely defensive maneuver.

"Skunks aren't aggressive animals," said Liska. "If you see one by your garbage late at night, just leave it alone and you won't get sprayed."

Or better yet, maybe next time sober up before taking the garbage out at 2 a.m.

"I really should stop drinking anyways," said the victim, who said he had to trash that night's outfit. "If getting sprayed by a skunk doesn't wake me up, I don't know what will."

Matthew Lysiak is a writer based in Bay Ridge.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Not my greatest moment. Minutes after **Community Board 10** voted 30-11 to approve of developer **Andrew Kohen's** residential housing plan last week, the meeting came to a crashing halt as my camera smashed to the ground. To all those concerned, I am happy to report the camera is all right, though the same can't be said of my ego, which took another hit minutes later, when I received a call telling me that I'd left my wallet behind. Rival reporter **Helen Klein** found it on my empty chair and turned it in, not even stealing the \$8 inside! That Helen is a paragon of integrity... The Sink wants to give a shout-out to the **David Lind Band** for giving a shout-out to **69th Street** in its new catchy single "Bay Ridge Avenue." ... Look out **Rudy!** Bay Ridge for **Ron Paul** is here. For information go to, where else? BayRidgeForRonPaul@Gmail.com. ... Wipe that off your crystal ball. Our source tells us that the new "Spiritualist," who hangs out on Third Avenue between 80th and 81st Street was battling a nasty stomach virus — in full view of the public (you know what I mean). If you're speaking to the dead, please ask them to escort you to the bathroom next time.

— e-mail stoop@brooklynpaper.com

By Matthew Lysiak
The Brooklyn Paper

Mr. Cunningham, stop building these walls. That was the order from the Department of Buildings, which halted the construction of a controversial house extension that nearly caused a neighborhood revolt.

The unneighborly spat goes back more than five years, but the cold war went nuclear two months ago after Robert and Cheryl Cunningham began building a 60-foot-high cinderblock wall at their home at 123 87th St. The wall is only inches from their neighbors at 127 87th St., Matthew and Jean Gershon.

At the time, neighbors of the quiet tree-lined block stormed Community Board 10 to demand answers from the Department of Buildings, which approved the application.

Sure enough, two months later the permit was revoked.

But the walls aren't the only neighborhood indiscretion, only the most recent.

"The Cunninghams have aggressive dogs, which defecate on our property, and are rude at every chance they get," said Gershons.

Like most good feuds, this one also has some mystery. The man who lives at 123 87th St., told The Stoop that his name was not Cunningham, but "John Moore." Department of Finance records show that "Moore's" property is indeed owned by the Cunninghams.



The Department of Buildings has halted construction at 123 87th St. — which blocks the windows in the neighboring house.

There is no mention of a John Moore in city records. Like the walls, this saga isn't over, only on hold. Gershon believes the "stop-work" order is a good first step, but would also like to look out his kitchen window again. "It is good that they stopped working, but I won't be happy until that wall comes down," added Gershon.

The stop-work order remains in effect until "the building owner" fully addresses the Department of Buildings' "objections," said agency spokeswoman Kate Lindquist.

The Cunninghams could not be reached for comment.



Century 21 architect David Nicholson shows off the store's plans for a parking lot on 87th Street, the site of the former Mark Lanes.

Century 21 parking lot approved by CB10

The Brooklyn Paper

The parking lot that claimed the life of a much-loved bowling alley on 87th Street is one step closer to reality.

Community Board 10 signed off on Century 21's plan to build a six-story parking garage capable of accommodating 279 cars on the former site of the Mark Lanes bowling alley.

The lot could help ease parking congestion during daytime shopping hours and also at night, as Century 21 has prom-

ised to allow local restaurants to use the lot for valet parking, freeing up space on the street.

"There is a lot of congestion caused by cars circling around the block looking for parking spaces," said Melanie McMuray, a company representative who spoke at CB10's July 11 meeting.

Parking would not be free, unless shoppers buy something at Century 21 and get their parking ticket validated, according to McMuray.

In addition to the parking

garage, Century 21 hopes to add a level of retail space on 87th Street and plant six trees on the roof, according to architect David Nicholson.

Despite the overwhelming community board support, the extra parking was condemned by at least one constituency: bowling fans.

"The bowling alley was here for 30 years and my heart was destroyed when they tore it down," said local bowling fanatic Tom Brice.

— Matthew Lysiak

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Nigerian 'prince' scams Ridge man

By Matthew Lysiak
and Michael Giardina
The Brooklyn Paper

68th Precinct

A Nigerian "prince" in desperate need of an American friend to help him transfer money out of his turbulent country found one in Bay Ridge.

The 27-year-old man, who was promised a slice of the action in return for his kindness, told cops he received the urgent e-mail sometime in June. In the email, the "prince" told the victim that before he could transfer the millions of dollars into the United States, he would first need a little cash.

Cops say that the victim, who lives on 95th Street near Third Avenue, obliged the wealthy Nigerian heir with a wire transfer of \$2,850 on June 13, before discovering he was part of a royal scam.

Invite to steal

A 33-year-old man was robbed after inviting a man into his apartment on June 13.

The crime went down at shortly after 7 a.m., when the victim invited the sticky-fingered perp into the flat, which is on Bay Ridge Avenue near Ridge Boulevard. After the man left, his host discovered that his cellphone, valued at \$150, and his iPod, valued at \$300, were missing.

Alarm response

A quick response by cops to a residential alarm may have thwarted a heist on June 13.

Police got to the house, which is on Seventh Avenue near 88th Street, after the alarm sounded at 2:50 pm and discovered the security gate pried open and a basement window shattered, but fortunately no property was stolen.

Store looted

Can you rob me now? A Fourth Avenue cellphone store was robbed of over \$50,000 worth of merchandise on June 15.

A store employee told police that she closed the store at 8:30 pm on June 14, only to return the next morning at 11 to discover someone had crawled through the roof, stolen the goods, and escaped through the bathroom window.

The tech-thief made off with a bundle of new cellphones, valued at \$41,405, but didn't

POLICE BLOTTER

62nd Precinct

Purse grab

A woman's purse was snatched as she was shopping on Bay Parkway on July 15.

The 65-year-old woman was near 73rd Street at around 5 pm when a thief came from behind her and snatched the pocketbook. The woman found herself being shoved to the ground after she attempted to struggle with the punk.

The thief took more than \$100, along with her credit and debit cards, police said.

Cellphone game

A teenager found herself in the midst of a game of monkey in the middle when three punks took her phone in a New Utrecht Avenue train station on

July 13.

The 16-year-old girl was waiting for the D train at the station, which is near 79th Street, at around 11:15 am, when the threesome approached her. According to the victim, one of the punks took the cellphone out of her pocket and threw it around in front of her. When she attempted to get it back, one of the punks punched her in the eye, police said.

All three villains fled following the incident. The victim had some swelling and bruising to her face.

AM break-in

A middle-aged man returned to his 80th Street apartment to find thieves had broken in and taken his property overnight on July 13.

The 49-year-old man discovered the crime when he re-

turned to his apartment, which is near 18th Avenue, at around 5 am. The punks had broken in and taken electronics and cellphone before fleeing through a rear bedroom window, cops said.

Gym swipes

After a one-week absence from these pages, two more gym swipes were reported last week — this time at the same 86th Street health club.

The first break-in occurred on July 11 at around 5:30 pm, after a 21-year-old fitness junky left his belongings in a locker.

After working up a good sweat, he returned to the locker room, where he found that thugs had broken in and taken his jewelry and \$100, police said.

The second occurred on July 13, at around 6:30 pm. In this case, the 44-year-old left his locker with all his property inside thinking a combination lock would keep them safe. But a thief or thieves broke in and took his clothes, cellphone, and credit and debit cards, police said.

The gym, which is located near 19th Avenue, has been the site of numerous locker room break-ins — many chronicled in these pages — yet a surveillance system has yet to be installed.

Opto-debauchery

An optometrist had his car broken into and robbed of vital equipment after leaving it parked on West 12th Street on July 9.

The victim returned to his car, which was near Avenue P, at around 10 pm to discover that thieves had taken \$6,000 worth of optometrical equipment, police said.

He later told police that he may have left the doors open.

Biting buffoons

A man walking with his 3-year-old son on 86th Street was attacked, robbed and even bitten by four punks on July 16.

The quartet approached the father as he and his son were walking at around 9:30 near 25th Avenue. One of the thugs told him to "give me money."

while the others kicked, and one even bit him.

During the ensuing scuffle, one of the punks took \$400 out of the victim's front pocket and fled along with his buddies, police said.

The man and his son were virtually unharmed, save for a few teeth marks.

Bedroom bandits

A woman returned to her Bay Ridge Parkway home to find burglars in her bedroom ransacking the place for cash and goods on July 11.

When the woman returned to the home, which is near 21st Avenue, at around 7:20 pm, she did notice that her front air conditioner had been pushed out of the window. She carefully walked into her bedroom to find the two punks looking through her dresser drawers.

The victim immediately screamed, scaring off the thugs, who had already pocketed \$4,000, police said.

They fled through the front door with the cash.

New charges against Club Shadows



Owner Joseph Domovsky relaxes inside his Club Shadows on Fourth Avenue between 90th and 91st Street.

The Brooklyn Paper

Club Shadows, the embattled Fourth Avenue nightclub that pleaded not guilty to four violations earlier this year, now wants to make a deal after getting hit with a new set of charges.

Three accusations have been leveled against the club, all stemming from a fight on June 5.

The specific charges filed by the Liquor Authority on June 5 alleged that Shadows owners with "permitting the premises to become disorderly," "permitting an altercation or assault to occur," and "failure to exercise adequate supervision over the conduct of the licensed business."

Or in the words of Bill Crowley, a spokesman for the State Liquor Authority, there was "barroom brawl."

"There was a fight and the cops had to be called," said Crowley.

Details of the fight remain unclear, but the new allegations came only days before Shadows offered to settle earlier State Liquor Authority charges, the most serious being that the club did not have a proper liquor license.

"Not having [it] could possibly result in revoking the license," Crowley said.

The less-serious charges include not registering the name "Club Shadows," and the discovery of files in one booze bottle, according to Crowley.

The terms of the deal are confidential until the board can review it and make its determination.

"It isn't uncommon that a deal is made to settle charges like these," said Crowley. "These are serious charges and the board will make a determination based on the evidence."

The new charges are a separate matter, which means another trial, according to Crowley.

"The plea is only relevant to the old charges," said Crowley. "They haven't pleaded to the new charges yet, which are very serious."

Shadows had until July 11 to respond, according to the summons.

Club Shadows, which is between 90th and 91st streets, got on the community radar screen in November, when a sign featuring the silhouette of a curvy woman was installed.

The sign also promised "exotic dancers" at the Nov. 30 opening.

The strippers never materialized, but the troubles were only beginning.

Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) brought SLA inspectors to the opening, and the agency hit Club Shadows with the four original violations.

Shadows lawyer William Spanakos could not be reached for comment.

—Matthew Lysiak

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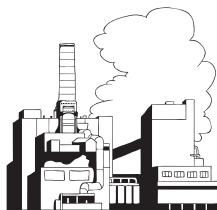
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THE stoop

WILLIAMSBURG—GREENPOINT—BUSHWICK



You can see for mile\$...

Nice view, huh? Once available only to the airborne, soon the panorama pictured on the left will be available to anyone who can pay \$500,000 to \$2-million for a condominium in One Northside Piers.

One Northside Piers is the first phase of a mixed-use development that will ultimately include retail space, parking, a waterfront esplanade, a 400-foot-long pier, more than 800 units, a full-time concierge, SubZero refrigerators, marble countertops, the whole bit, in three towers and several "townhouses." It is one of several projects now in the works that will bring thousands of new residents to the hot north-Brooklyn waterfront.

Now under construction just west of Kent Avenue near North Fifth Street, One Northside's 29-story tower was shown off at a recent party held on the unfinished 20th floor.

Yet from this lofty perch, several onlookers considered notes from underground: In other words, how are the people who will be living here getting to the Manhattan jobs they will certainly need to pay the mortgage?

The bus? Not likely. There are currently no express commuter buses serving the area.

The subway? Well, there is an L-train stop three blocks away, in the heart of hipsterville on Bedford Avenue. The downside is that this station is just a teensy bit crowded, especially during commuting hours.

Yearly ridership on the L line has skyrocketed from under 17,000 in 1994 to more than 30,000 in 2005. In that year, Bedford Avenue was rated the line's second-busiest station, after the First Avenue station in Manhattan.

Residents of Greenpoint and Williamsburg might want to demand a recount. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it increased the number of L trains this spring, but the sight of filled trains after filled trains going by during rush hour mocks that promise.

"It gets worse," says Williamsburg resident Chris Calabrese. "I've had mornings where I could barely find room to stand on the platform."

The only other trains are the J, M and Z trains at the remote Marcy Avenue stop and the G train, which is known for perversely refusing to go to Manhattan.

Ferries? While the One Northside Piers sales brochure does not mention the "F" word, two speedy-looking ferries appear in its illustrations. The mayor is also a believer. His much-ballyhooed PlaNYC promised that "the city will seek to [a] ferry system along the East River that would connect ferry landings at Queens West, Greenpoint and North and South Williamsburg with landings at Pier 11 (Wall Street) and East 34th Street in Manhattan."

New York Water Taxi currently runs a similar East River route, making stops at the Fulton Ferry Landing in Downtown Brooklyn (though not all year), Schaeffer's Landing at South Sixth Street in Williamsburg, Hunters Point in Queens, and East 34th Street and Pier 11 (Wall Street) in Manhattan.

Two key drawbacks with water taxis are their dubious profitability — historically, extensive water taxi systems have not been able to survive without government subsidy — and relative expense.

"If you work on Wall Street and the boat drops you right there, great," said Greenpoint activist Joe Vance. "But if you work in Midtown and you pay five bucks to be dropped off at 34th Street and the East River, where you have to ride the bus, it's not so great."

But maybe I'm a killjoy. Transportation concerns don't appear to be discouraging anyone from buying into the Greenpoint-Williamsburg waterfront. Units at the still-unfinished One Northside Piers project are going quickly — even if the future tenants aren't going anywhere fast.

Tom Gilbert is a writer and historian living in Greenpoint

THE KITCHEN SINK

You can't say Attorney General Andrew Cuomo isn't true to his word, even if it takes him five months to live up to his promises. This week, Cuomo sued ExxonMobil in federal court to force the petroleum giant to clean up its **17-million-gallon oil slick** beneath Greenpoint. Cuomo had announced his intention to sue back in February. ... Confounding local opinion, Starbucks has opened its first north Brooklyn store — not in Williamsburg, but on humble **Manhattan Avenue**, near Greenpoint Avenue. ... The mighty **Polish & Slavic Credit Union**, which boasts 68,231 members and assets of \$1.1 billion, is going ahead with plans to build a new branch in Maspeth, then renovate the old headquarters at 140 Greenpoint Ave. Both new branches stand a good chance of being an esthetic improvement on the PSCU's "Transylvanian Euro Disney" building on **McGuinness Boulevard** which looks like a left-over set from the Marx Brothers film "Duck Soup." No offense to the folks who made "Duck Soup." ... **McGorlick Park** has been looking up in recent years, with the restoration of the Shelter Pavilion, the WWI and Monitor memorials and some lovely plantings. It would be even nicer if the jerks who vandalize the tulips and other flowers would find something else to do, though. ... Long a subject of neighborhood speculation, the **Parish Diner** has opened on Richardson Street near North Henry, with an upscale (for Greenpoint) menu (carpaccio yes, Belgian waffles, no). It is not connected in any way to nearby **St. Cecilia's Church**. ... The community organization **Town Square** is presenting SummerStarz 2007, its third annual outdoor music and dance series in **McCarren Park** (there'll even be movies like "Happy Feet" and "My Cousin Vinny"). It will run on Wednesday evenings through August 29th. For information visit www.townsquareinc.com. **E-mail** Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

BESIDE THE POINT

Tom Gilbert



The Domino Sugar sign will not be protected as a landmark, but the developer of the site vows to save it.

'Domino' falls?

By Rachel Corbett

for The Brooklyn Paper

The tilted yellow "Domino Sugar" sign on the old Williamsburg waterfront refinery could still be salvaged even though the building to which it's attached will likely be knocked down during the site's impending 11-acre redevelopment.

"We are looking at several different ways to save the sign," said Edmond Richards, a spokesman for developer CPC Resources, told The Stoop.

Richards added that developers recently presented possibilities to Community Board 1, including one that showed the sign standing independently on the es-

planade, like the Pepsi-Cola sign in nearby Long Island City.

Later this summer, the Landmarks Preservation Commission is expected to protect three buildings on the factory site that comprise the main processing area, but not the more-modern building hosting the sign. Preservationists are still hoping the 48-foot neon sign can be saved.

"It has defined a part of the Brooklyn waterfront for 50 years," said Roger Lang, director of public policy for the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

"Just because it's not a building doesn't mean that it can't be relocated and celebrated."

The development calls for nine towers — four of which would stand taller than

300 feet — that would contain commercial space plus 2,200 mixed-income housing units, with around 600 reserved for low- and middle-income tenants.

To make way for the new shops, apartments and esplanade, some Domino buildings dating as far back as 1883 will be demolished. Preservationists want the Commission to landmark the Adant House on South Fifth and Kent streets, as well as the decorative brick Power House. But so far the commission has no plans to vote on anything other than the main Processing House.

"It would make more sense as a complex and give a better sense of history," said Martina Salasbury, a member of the Waterfront Preservation Alliance of Greenpoint and Williamsburg.

Everyone in the ... skate park?

By Brian J. Carreira

for The Brooklyn Paper

The Parks Department asked North Brooklynites to "go to town" at a meeting earlier this month to discuss the future of Greenpoint's long-shuttered McCarren Pool — and residents let their imaginations run wild to envision everything from a sandy beach to summer movies to urban kayaking.

Oh, and plenty of people at the June 13 meeting wanted to see the McCarren Pool again be a ... pool.

The Bloomberg Administration recently pledged \$50 million to restore the 70-year-old edifice as part of the mayor's PlaNYC.

The Depression-era McCarren Pool was closed in 1985 for renovation, but remained shuttered at the urging of neighbors who, after years of municipal neglect, saw it as little more than a spot for crime.

Now, there's a critical mass urging the facility to be restored. But first, "we're trying to build consensus," said Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spigiel.

Such "consensus" has been elusive. The site was going to be cleared in 1988, but preservationists successfully fought to save the building, with its iconic arch and bathhouses. But it has continued to rot.

In 2001, a compromise plan was approved, but scuttled when the money vanished from the city budget.

Among suggestions likely to be seen in the final drawings are an amphitheater suitable for movies and concerts, indoor event spaces, an ice skating rink, and a skate park.

Longtime pool advocate Beth Goldowitz was pleased with the discussion, but worried it encouraged a proposal "geared towards single use people like ice hockey players or skaters."

But Councilman David Yassky (D-Williamsburg) said such snubbing could be avoided because the Parks De-

partment is calling in all the interested parties early in the process. The already hired design team — which will be fully on board in September — will digest the suggestions and present

preliminary plans to Community Board 1 at the end of the year. Work could begin as early as spring, 2009, Spigiel said. In addition to all the other potential uses, the McCarren Pool will, of course, one

day also become a pool — though when finished, the basin won't be as big as it was in 1936, when then-Mayor LaGuardia cut the ribbon and said, "No pool anywhere has been as much appreciated as this one."



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The 'bride' of Fourth Street

Sleeping beauty has block abuzz

By Beethoven Bong
for The Brooklyn Paper



Fourth Street was abuzz on Sunday when neighbors awoke to find a woman — in full wedding attire — apparently asleep on a ledge above the door of a Park Slope brownstone.

Police quickly arrived, but no one knew what to make of the mysterious woman or even how she could have gotten up on the ledge without assistance. (See photos, left.)

"They asked me if I knew or recognized her or had any idea why she was there," said Tom Santini, "I didn't know what was going on."

Cops carried the woman down from the ledge, and questioned her in Spanish and English. But witnesses said she gave no response.

"Maybe she's a fallen angel," one cop said.

The woman had a teddy bear-shaped bag with her that contained a wedding ring inside a Tiffany box, a

witness told The Brooklyn Paper. When the cops took it away from her briefly, she squealed, a witness said, and the officer gave it back.

"That was the only time she responded at all," said Magda Grant, who lives across the street. "She was a beautiful girl."

After EMS workers took her away, neighborhood remained stunned.

"It's very strange," said a neighbor. "Was she put there or did she climb up herself? This has been the talk of the block since."

Another neighbor added, "We all kept thinking, 'This has got to be some NYU film student prank or something! Where's Ashton Kutcher to tell us we're being punk'd?' But once the cops cuffed her, it didn't seem like a joke anymore."

Residents of the brownstone, which is between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, were not home at the time of the incident and haven't returned yet, neighbors said.



An artist's rendering shows the public art exhibit "Stair Squares," which will make its debut at Borough Hall on Aug. 17.

Borough Hall art project will be weird

By Harry Cheadle
The Brooklyn Paper

Anyone who has passed by the steps of Borough Hall and thought, "There ought to be some turquoise, L-shaped, table-like things here," is going to get his wish. Everyone else is probably going to be a little confused.

On Aug. 17, a bunch of turquoise, L-shaped, table-like things called "Stair Squares" will be installed on the stairs of our borough government, bringing some color — and weirdness — to the gray, classical structure.

So what are they? Tables for lunching? A po-mo-bo chair? An homage to Tents?

Not even their designer Mark Reigelman has the answer.

"There isn't a specific function," said Reigelman, an up-and-coming Williamsburg designer. "It's a good height to put your lunch or coffee on. I tried to keep it so the user could use it for many things."

He said they could be used, say, as backrests by all our tireless city employees (when they get tired, that is).

At least one occupant of 309 Kadema St. is enthusiastic.

"Here at Borough Hall, we love our 'front porch,'" said Borough President Markowitz. "We're thrilled that Mark Reigelman will be giving our beautiful building's grandeur a little bit of modern mood."

The project was made possible by the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, which gave \$15,000 grants to 10 graduating design students.

The Brooklyn Paper

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Why won't OSFO write?

THE OH SO FEISTY One has been away at summer camp for more than a week and Smartnom hasn't received a letter.

Not one frigid letter. Frankly, Smartnom is worried and a little hurt. It would not be an understatement to say that she is the throes of a curiosity-induced cardiac arrest. She wishes she could be a fly on the wall of OSFO's open-air cabin and get a firsthand look at her 10-year-old woodwoman — mosquito bites and all.

Smartnom knows that OSFO is probably not miserable. At the orientation, the friendly camp directors said that if a camper is terribly homesick for more than a day two, there will be a phone call home.

And that's a call you don't want to get on your iPhone. That's for sure.

Fortunately no call came.

But neither did a delightful little missive from OSFO gushing about her adventures in the woods of Vermont. Worse, Smartnom's friend, whose



The Oh So Feisty One (far left) enjoys (sort of) the great outdoors.

daughter is at the very same camp, already got a detailed letter from her daughter that was practically Prussian in scope.

Smartnom wanted to scream with envy.

ND IT'S NOT because OSFO doesn't have stationary or postage stamps.

Far from it. Before she left, Smartnom and OSFO addressed well over 30 stamped postcards and envelopes to friends and family.

"I think I'm going to be bored, so I'll probably write a lot," OSFO told Smartnom.

Clearly, this was OSFO's way of battling her fear of going away from home for the first time. With these hand-addressed cards in her trunk, she could sustain a connection with those she loves.

Smartnom certainly didn't expect OSFO to use all 20 of the Ugly Doll postcards or all 10 of the cheery yellow note cards with the handy multiple-choice questions.

So many lousy note card. Is that so difficult?

So it's been over a week

without contact of any kind. And Indian Brook is not one of those camps that lets the kids send e-mails or gives parents access to a hidden camera.

"Unplugged and unforgettable," that's the camp's motto and it also means rural and rustic. A wilderness camping experience, Indian Brook encourages simple living.

There's even a non-sectarian Quaker element, which means

was pretty tight lipped in the car but the night before she went to that happy camp in Co-pake, New York. It was the summer of Woodstock and on the days of the festival, all the counselors abandoned the camp for some fun and frolic.

Smartnom wrote her parents a letter-size fall of storm and

Smartnom assured her that Indian Brook is a very special place. She lulled her to sleep reading the Parents Handbook for the umpteenth time.

Knowledge is power and it seemed to bring some modicum of comfort to her frightened girl.

"I hate camp! Please come get me!"

Manhattan Granny recalls the sheer panic and gastric pain she felt when she got Smartnom's pencil scratching.

"It felt like a note put in a bottle by a desperate prisoner," Manhattan Granny remembers.

By the time she got Smartnom on the phone, things had improved. But Manhattan Granny was still a basket case.

So maybe it's a blessing that Smartnom hasn't heard from OSFO. Still, Smartnom has a



By Louise Crawford

that all campers and staff participate in a Meeting for Worship that is, according to the camp's brochure, a time to reflect, pray, enjoy the birds, think about your parents...
It all sounds pretty great, right? So why has Smartnom heard nothing?
The first few days of camp, Smartnom certainly didn't expect to get a letter. She and Hepcat dropped off their precious girl on a Sunday in beautiful Plymouth, Vermont. She



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FAMILY CALENDAR



A participant in the annual Macy's fishing contest in Prospect Park.

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay and Harry Cheadle

SATURDAY, JULY 21
10 am-4 pm Fishing contest. Prospect Park Audubon Center (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Call (718) 765-8999 for info.
10:45 am-4 pm Zoo puppet show. Prospect Park Zoo (450 Flatbush Ave., at Empire Boulevard), free. Call (718) 399-7339 for info.
11 am Kid's Shakespeare. "A Midsummer Night's Dream." A Midsummer Night's Dream. Prospect Park Audubon Center (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Call (646) 222-5688 for info.
1-4 pm Spring workshop. 10 to 10:30 am Tickleberry (190 Underhill Ave., between Sterling Place and St. John's Place in Prospect Heights), \$50. Call (845) 797-1320 for info.
1:15-1:55 pm Boat tour. Prospect Park Boat House (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), adults, \$10; children, \$6. Binoculars provided. Visit www.prospectpark.com for info.
2-4 pm Storytelling for toddlers. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Montgomery Street), adults, \$8; kids, free. Call (718) 623-7200 for info.
SUNDAY, JULY 22
10 am-4 pm Fishing contest. See Saturday, July 21.
10:45 am-4 pm Zoo puppet show. See Saturday, July 21.
11 am Kid's Shakespeare. See Saturday, July 21.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm Puppet show. "The Jungle Book." Puppeteers 138 Sixth Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope, \$7 children, \$8 adults. Call (718) 965-3391 to make reservations.
1-4 pm Arts and crafts. Audubon Center in Prospect Park (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Visit www.prospectpark.com for info.
4 pm Musical puppet show. "In a Round About Way." Old Stone House (corner of Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street, at Park Slope), free. Call (718) 768-3703 for info or visit www.puppets.org.
MONDAY, JULY 23
9:30-11:30 am Storytelling and crafts. Prospect Park Audubon Center (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), \$20 per session; \$40 per month. Call (718) 267-3400 for info.
11:45 am Kid's Shakespeare. See Saturday, July 21.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm Puppet show. "The Jungle Book." Puppeteers 138 Sixth Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope, \$7 children, \$8 adults. Call (718) 965-3391 to make reservations.
1-4 pm Arts and crafts. Audubon Center in Prospect Park (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Visit www.prospectpark.com for info.
4 pm Musical puppet show. "In a Round About Way." Old Stone House (corner of Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street, at Park Slope), free. Call (718) 768-3703 for info or visit www.puppets.org.
TUESDAY, JULY 24
2-4 pm Plant workshop. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Montgomery Street), \$8 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Call (718) 623-7200 for info.
7 pm Storytelling, lemonade, and cookies in the Hoyt Street Garden (corner of Hoyt Street and Atlantic Avenue), free. Call (718) 237-0145. Free.
THURSDAY, JULY 26
1:30-3 pm Indian art workshop. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave., at St. Marks Avenue), free. Call (718) 735-4400 for info.
2-4 pm Water works. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Montgomery Street), \$8 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Call (718) 623-7200 for info.
FRIDAY, JULY 27
10:45 am-4 pm Zoo puppet show. See Saturday, July 21.
2-3 pm Music for toddlers. Audubon Center (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Call (718) 267-3400 to register.
4 pm Camp out at the Salt Marsh Nature Center (3302 Avenue U, at E. 33rd Street), free. Tents provided. Call (718) 421-2021 to register.
6:30 pm Balcony dance party. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave., at St. Marks Avenue), free. Call (718) 735-4400 for info.
SATURDAY, JULY 28
10:45 am-4 pm Zoo puppet show. See Saturday, July 21.
11 am Rock band for kids. Brooklyn PLAY (399 Atlantic Ave., at Bond Street, lower level), \$20 per family. Call 718-852-2494 for info.
Noon: Learn about gardening. Barnes and Noble (567 Seventh Ave., at Sixth Street, in Park Slope), free. Call (718) 832-9066 for info.
1-4 pm Dancing workshop for ages 5 to 10. Camp Tickleberry (190 Underhill Ave., between Sterling Place and St. John's Place in Prospect Heights), \$50. Call (845) 797-1320 for info.
1-3 pm Arts and crafts. Prospect Park Audubon Center (at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road), free. Call (718) 267-3400 for info.
2 pm and 3 pm Multicultural storytelling. Lefties Homestead (at intersection of Flatbush and Ocean Avenues and Empire Boulevard), free. Call (718) 789-2822 for info.
2-4 pm Storytelling for toddlers. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Montgomery Street), adults, \$8; kids, free. Call (718) 623-7200 for info.
3:40-4:30 pm Play with balls. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave., at St. Marks Avenue), \$5. Call (718) 735-4400 for info.



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NE314-NY-G

OUR OPINION

Throw out this bill

THE STATE LEGISLATURE HAS PASSED a misguided — and probably unconstitutional — bill that could bar everyone from advertisers to activists from leaving flyers outside buildings whose owners indicate that they do not wish to receive such flyers.

We understand the motivation behind the bill — plenty of homeowners complain of unwanted flyers, menus and advertising circulars. But a law against such items would both stifle and skew the free exchange of political thought and commercial action.

The Brooklyn Paper doesn't have a dog in this fight — we're explicitly exempt from the bill's regulations and onerous fines, \$250 to \$1,000 per infraction. In fact, we could view the bill as giving us an advantage in the competition for advertising dollars.

Yet despite our possible gain, we oppose it and urge Gov. Spitzer to veto it. Here's why:

- It's one thing to allow owner-occupants of single family homes the right to refuse products they

don't want, but what about multi-unit buildings? Should a building's owner be allowed to cut off the free flow of information to its tenants?

- The newspaper exemption itself poses special concerns. First, we're leery of any government regulation that seeks to define what is or is not a "news" paper.

Second, circular distributors could seek to get around the bill by turning ads into stories like, "Locals go crazy over beauty product sale in aisle 4 at..." or "It's summer! Time for a new barbecue grill — on sale now!"

And third, faux-newsletters could very easily — and cheaply — be filled with press releases and unctuous "grip-and-grin" photos of local elected officials, excerpting such circular distributors from the bill so long as they play ball with the incumbents and give them lots of free publicity.

Brooklyn has enough fake "news" papers that already work (not so subtly, in our view) as public relations machines for chosen politicians and developers. We don't need more.

As a bedrock principle, we oppose any government action that could discourage the free exchange of ideas, both political and commercial. And the line between the two is finer than you might imagine.

The fact is, speech is speech — whether it's your local pizzeria dropping off its menu at your doorstep, a politician handing out a flyer, a developer promoting his project, or a newspaper blaring headlines from a box at the corner.

And people already have in place a mechanism to handle such speech: it's called the free market. If no one visits the pizzeria, it closes down, and the flyers stop coming; politicians get voted out of office; developers' spin gets countered by truth.

It goes against this country's principles for the legislature to write a law specifically aimed at a person or company's right to get the word out.

The New York State legislature has done just that. Gov. Spitzer should not allow them to get away with it.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Cristian Terrence

LETTERS

This regular 'Joe' wants Wal-Mart in Brooklyn

To the editor,

After reading your coverage of the new Trader Joe's ("Trader Joe's in the Bank," July 14), I wrote this as an open letter to Borough President Markowitz.

I do not care about Trader Joe's. I probably cannot even afford to shop there, although I have no doubt you and your wife can. I want Wal-Mart and I want it now. If this is a free country, why are the two Albany dictators — Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno — stopping this great business from coming to New York?

I waitress, and my boss gives me \$2.54 an hour plus tips, which doesn't amount to much. I do not care one way or another if Wal-Mart is unionized. Illegal aliens work all over the city in non-union jobs — so who cares?

Give us lower-income people a Wal-Mart!

Janet DeBernardo, Park Slope

Triple treat

To the editor,

I want to thank you for your special coverage of the Brooklyn Cyclones ("Triple Threat Coverage"). I enjoy articles that are written with such excitement.

It's a real pleasure to think that there is an area newspaper to purchase that covers the team the way you do. Again, thank you!

Richard Kleiman, Midwood
Editor's note: While we appreciate that Kleiman would gladly pay for our newspaper, The Brooklyn Paper remains free.

Tricycle thief

To the editor,

Concerning your article "The tricycle thief" (June 16), how can DK Holland's tricycle, especially one that is just one year old, be considered a "neighborhood icon"? Worse, how can this infant tricycle have made its owner "a Fort Greene legend" when hardly anyone in these parts has seen this mere babe in action?

We do appreciate The Brooklyn Paper, but Fort Greene has plenty of true icons and legends that have been around for decades, if not centuries; no one needs this paper to create legends and icons out of thin air.

Susan Price, Fort Greene

Editor's note: No offense was intended to Fort Greene Park, the statue of Gen. Greer, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower and even the Pratt Institute. But we at The Paper do reserve the right to create new "icons" on occasion.

Reduce traffic!

To the editor,

The concept of reduction of auto and truck traffic in Manhattan deserves action.

The current plan's flaw is that it only encompasses portions of Manhattan. Portions of the so-called "outer boroughs" suffer the ailments of too many vehicles for a limited amount of space.

New York City is projected to add one million people in the upcoming decades.

And Brooklyn will experience massive traffic inflow with the controversial Atlantic Yards project.

To accommodate such growth, our city must begin the process of reducing the congestion to an improved mass-transit system citywide.

Any realistic congestion plan must include entering any of the five boroughs of New York. It must be in tandem with increased monies to address limited mass transit in the perimeter boroughs as well.

Jeannie M. May, Bay Ridge
The writer is a member of CB10 and Brooklyn Democrats for Change, a political club.

Smells a Ratner

To the editor,

Those newly released Atlantic Yards documents ("Yassky: Stop Ratner gray train," July 14) make it very clear that the 2,250 low-cost housing units that are proposed as part of Bruce Ratner's development may, in fact, never be built.

But if not, blame Ratner. Their future is in doubt due to cost under-estimates, and this should concern every taxpayer citizen.

Ratner's project will ultimately be funded with taxpayer money solely for private use, and in the end will not benefit the community in any way shape or form, but will only further deplete already overstressed utilities in the area and in nearby neighborhoods.

Moving forward with this project, with the assistance of city officials and planners, violates the terms of Eminent Domain laws, and is unethical. The developer, with government's aid, is knowingly seizing private property for private use under the guise of public benefit.

To add insult to injury, a recent state Assembly vote awarded Ratner a tax break estimated as being worth between \$175 and \$300 million.

It's time to stop turning a blind eye to all that's going on in our own backyards — we need to act.

If the officials we elect to protect our interests are unwilling to do so, they must be voted out of office. We've been complacent long enough. Brooklynites — "Wake up! Speak up! Use your vote!"

Robert Segarra, Park Slope

Cell hell

To the editor,

A story about cellphone towers at 301 81st Street quoted Councilman Vince Gentile as saying, "The situation on 81st Street is a perfect example of why Congress should amend the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and give the people who know what's best for their local communities the ability to regulate cellphone towers." ("Cell tower war off the Hook," July 14).

I suggest the situation is more indicative of why people don't trust politicians.

Can nothing be done at the local level like, say, where Mr. Gentile works in the Council? Introduce a bill and get things going to study this problem. Or a resolution, maybe?

Can he possibly be serious about merely waiting for Congress to do something? Mr. Gentile: Do something yourself and stop pandering here on 81st Street.

Rather, he is helping to turn tenants against a good landlord who is breaking no laws.

William Wickham, Bay Ridge
The writer lives in the building in question.

Hook still hot

Last year, you wrote an article about Red Hook that I think was a bit negative and misleading ("Red Hot Red Hook," Aug. 6). I am the owner of Atlantis, at 351 Van Brunt St., and absolutely adore my neighborhood.

Perhaps you would consider another look? My business friends in the Hook have such a different attitude than the one expressed in this article.

Maybe I am a little too sensitive, and the article is not as negative as I see it, but really, I feel blessed to be a resident of such a great place, and take offense to anyone who speaks ill of my little beach town.

Beatrice Giovannelli, Red Hook
Editor's note: No offense intended. Please read our weekly coverage of Red Hook in our Carroll Gardens/Edible Hill edition and online every week. We think you will find it, to borrow a phrase, fair and balanced.

Delivery Opt out

Every week, we deliver copies of The Brooklyn Paper to homes throughout Brownstone Brooklyn. Our unique system limits deliveries to just a few papers per building (eliminating the kind of clutter caused by circular and menu delivery services).

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JULY RECOMMENDATIONS



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Hecht & Bannier, Syrah Rosé
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Domaine Monte de Luz, Tannat
The perfect everyday red wine for your summer grilling... Deep, dark garnet-red, with concentrated aromas of cherry, plums, cedar and figs. A touch juicy, yet well balanced, not heavy or dense. It's selling for \$8.99 in Manhattan!

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\$16.95



Domaine Saint-Antonin, 'Les Jardins' Faugeres
I sell so many Languedoc wines like this, due to the price. Smooth, rich, filled with flavors of ripe black and red berries with a bit of the 'garrigues', the wild herbs and field grasses of the mountains in the south of France. Going to grill this weekend? This is your wine! A red this good from other, more 'snooty' parts of France would easily sell for \$20! See what all that sunshine does!

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 21, 2007



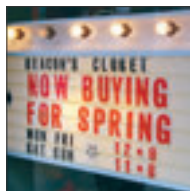
Wear it's going on

GO's guide to the best vintage shopping in the borough

By Katie Newingham
for The Brooklyn Paper

Check out the brownstones being renovated, the sold-out live burlesque shows and the mayor working on Cadman Plaza: everything old in Brooklyn is new again, and fashion isn't any different. On a jam-packed subway ride or a walk down the street, it's hard not to notice the wealth of rehabbed fashion — wedge shoes and gigantic sunglasses are two of the

biggest comebacks — that folks from Fort Greene to Flatbush are wearing this summer. In the past year, Brooklyn has seen a vintage boom, with nationwide chain Buffalo Exchange opening in Williamsburg (and setting their sights on DUMBO and Red Hook) and Manhattan mainstay Housing Works setting up shop in Brooklyn Heights. "I think the Brooklyn demographic has to do with it," said Rachel Petersen, a manager at Buffalo Exchange. "Everybody's trying to find her own style and to stand out in a crowd —



This old thing: Clockwise from above: vintage finds from the Buffalo Exchange in Williamsburg, the retro sign in the window of the Park Slope Beacon's Closet, and Hooti Couture owner Allison Houtte showing off her vintage glamour.

Beacon's Closet

Opening in 1997 in Williamsburg, Beacon's Closet has become one of the neighborhood's premier shopping destinations. The warehouse is chock full of men's and women's gear ranging from Halloween costume ridiculous to red carpet glamorous. The store was so successful that in 2002 a satellite location opened in Park Slope.

"We do a lot of funky, trendy stuff, but we don't do anything too formal," said manager Tiffany Collings. Beacon's keeps their prices down by buying directly from the public, so you're able to score most items in the store for under \$50 — even designer outfits and footwear.

Items like tights, sunglasses and jewelry are all sold new, so you can pick up an entire outfit on one trip — part of the store's appeal, said Collings. "It's a real cross-section," she said, "we see locals and tourists from all over the world."

Buffalo Exchange

Sprouting out of Tucson, Arizona in 1974 and reproducing itself into 30-plus branches countrywide, Buffalo Exchange keeps its racks stocked with modern and vintage finds. "Employees are trained on quality and desirability, so they know the trends," said Petersen — which means you can score current designer favorites at about a third of the

See VINTAGE on page 12

A Dunn deal

Part of the fun of vintage shopping is looking for the perfect piece at just a fraction of what it would cost retail. But in the world of already-worn clothes, sometimes you've got to make your own luck. GO Brooklyn asked stylist Sara Dunn, who has dressed KT Tunstall and the Rapture, for her hints on making the most of your discount discoveries.

Buy designer

"Anything designer — always buy it,"

said Dunn. To keep it affordable, she recommends that you "get as far away from Manhattan as possible."

Make friends with your tailor

"I get a lot of things tailored," said Dunn. "If it's an inexpensive item that just doesn't fit right, it's worth it." In other words, a \$5 pair of pants that are too long are worth the price of hemming. "But don't buy something in horrible condition," she warned us. After all, a tailor isn't a magician.

Learn to haggle

"I bargain with people all the time," said

everyone wants a unique wardrobe."

With so many local thrift shops, and overpriced vintage boutiques opening by the dozens, GO Brooklyn sorted through the racks and came up with the borough's best bets for secondhand shopping.

Dunn, who throws her own vintage sale called "Everything Must Go" once a month. While most prices are fixed, if there's a defect in an item or you're buying in bulk, it doesn't hurt to ask.

Think Outside the Box

"I think it's fun to mix it up," said Dunn. "Who wants to look like everybody else walking down the street?" She advised us to buy classic pieces but mix them with pieces that are trendy right now. "You want to keep it modern, but also to incorporate the timeless aspect of vintage."

ART



Sand dollars

To many Brooklynites, East Hampton is more than a trip on the newly accessible Hampton Jitney — it's another planet. But on July 27, three of the borough's art galleries will make the trek to ply their wares at Scope Hampton, an art fair that draws wealthy collectors out of their summer homes.

"The stigma of the wealthy is old-fashioned, thinking that Brooklyn is the minor league," said Don Carroll, owner of Jack the Pelican Presents gallery in Williamsburg. "They would sooner fly to Europe to see what you have than they would cross the river."

This will be the third year that Jack the Pelican is participating in Scope Hampton, and Carroll said that its success with the moneyed country house crowd makes it worthwhile to bring work by artists like Rodger Rounly (above) out of the city.

"People say that the Hamptons are where the rich people are," Scope President Alexis Hubschman told GO Brooklyn. "But those people say Brooklyn is where the hip people are."

Scope Hampton will run from July 27-29 at East Hampton Studios (77 Industrial Rd. at Wainwright Northwest Road in Wainwright). For information, visit www.scope-art.com. —Adam Rathe

TV

Ball flick

For some Brooklynites, mentioning the Dodgers is akin to bringing up an ex-wife who left us for a younger, richer man from Los Angeles. But now that so much time has passed, we can appreciate the good times we had.

That is the message of "Brooklyn Dodgers: The Ghosts of Flatbush," a new HBO film that revisits the best of times and focuses on the golden age of Dodger baseball, 1947-1956.

We're already familiar with many of the film's elements: Robinson's stoic heroism and Thomson's horrific "shot heard 'round the world," but the film does offer a few surprising tidbits.

For example, team owner Walter O'Malley, remembered in the borough as the demon spawn of Ebenezer Scrooge and Satan, gets less blame for the Dodgers' move than city planner Robert Moses.

"Brooklyn Dodgers: the Ghosts of Flatbush" airs on HBO through August 25. For times and information, visit www.hbo.com. —Harry Chase

BOOKS

Cold case

According to "Butchery on Bond Street" author Benjamin Feldman, the 1857 stabbing and strangling of New York society dentist Dr. Harvey Burdell makes "Ol' Simpson" look like child's play.

On July 22 in Green-Wood Cemetery, Feldman will explain the twists and turns of this 150-year-old murder — complete with sham marriages and fake pregnancies.

In fact, the Manhattan-dwelling Feldman has become so obsessed with the case that he has gone beyond just writing about the murder — he's even become financially involved in erecting grave-stones for Burdell and his mistress who, despite making headlines at the time, now have unmarked graves.

The discussion will take place at 1 pm on July 22 at Green-Wood Cemetery (enter at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street). Free. For information, call (718) 768-7300. —Katie Newingham

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Rooftop serenade

Tina returns from Italy and gets in the Spirito

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's possible to have too much of a good thing, and I had had enough of Florence.

I was there for a week in late June. At first, I loved the narrow streets crowded with tourists, the Vespa-riding locals and the restaurants that packed every square and alleyway. By day seven, I was fed up with the city for the same reasons.

People think of Italy and assume that every meal will be a masterpiece, but restaurant-wise, Florence is like most other cities: you can easily enjoy a great meal or stumble upon a restaurant that makes the Olive Garden seem like gourmet eating.

I was ready to go home. Back in Brooklyn, I refused on good old American fare: hamburgers and fries, grilled hot dogs, chocolate pudding. Then an itch for pasta took hold. I wanted to eat a bowl of it outdoors, possibly on the street under an umbrella, so I headed to Spirito Ristorante — the newest restaurant in a notoriously difficult space on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The restaurant plays the part of an Italian trattoria with rustic woods, a tiled floor and a front window that opens



DINING

Spirito Ristorante (287 Ninth St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues) accepts American Express. Entrees: \$15-\$23. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday. A three-course, \$20 prix fixe menu is available every evening from 5-8 p.m. For information, call (718) 522-0065.

onto the street. Instead of sidewalk dining, owners Mariano Francese, Giovanni Cavaglia and Pierluigi Palazzo have applied the concept to their roof terrace. In doing so, they've removed the hunk and beep of street sounds. With enough imagination to block out the McDonald's next door, the setting could be Florence.

In a way, Spirito Ristorante is more Italian than some of the places I visited in Italy.

Some restaurants there try to meet tourists' needs by serving entrée-sized portions of all courses, and dishes are often geared to the expectations of patrons raised on Italian-American cooking: think over-sauced, heavy and with too much cheese. Spirito's goal is different. As Francese told me, "We weren't interested in serving veal Parmesan."

"Take the tomato, a cheese imported from the Piedmont

region of Italy with the consistency of French Brie and the salty bite of Parmesan. The chef grills it briefly so it forms a crust and the center goes runny. It's delectable with the tender Spanish white beans and truffle oil that come alongside it, or smeared across a slice of the brittle corn bread.

My friend Rozanne and I split an order of the "pasccheri alla Spirito di mare," a lusty stew of shellfish in a spicy



Hen house: Diners at Spirito, above, enjoy rustic Italian fare like the "galletto alla griglia con limone e rosmarino," or Cornish game hen with rosemary, at left, which our critic Tina Barry said is better than a similar dish she had in Italy just a few weeks ago.

tomato sauce. The mussels, clams and octopus were tender and their briny bath served to amplify their sweetness. The pasta, though, was a touch too chewy for me.

I ordered the "galletto alla griglia con limone e rosmarino," or Cornish hen with rosemary, to see how it compared with a crisp chicken grilled under a brick that I enjoyed on my trip. Spirito's version was better.

The dark meat flavor of the bird was intense compared to the mildness of the Italian chicken. Its bronze skin, speckled with the fresh herb, crackled, and a brush of lemon juice added freshness. With the hen came broccoli rabe, its sautéed leaves and flowers adding a welcome bitter edge to the dish.

On the dessert round up is "tarantini di mele con gelato alla mela verde," a long name for warm apple tart with gelato. The dish takes 20 minutes to prepare, so mention it when the

waiter takes your dinner order; you should order it. Thin slices of the fruit lay crisp-edged and soft-centered over a tender crust redolent of sweet butter. The lush, tart green apple gelato is like a bite of the just-picked fruit at its crisp, perfect prime.

Something magical happened while we waited for dessert. Rozanne overheard our waiter, Paolo Buffagni, singing to himself downstairs. When he stopped at our table, Rozanne asked him to continue the song.

With little hesitation, he launched into the tenor aria "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's "Turandot," turning the terrace into his stage. It was one of those moments, with the handsome Buffagni standing before us, his head thrown back and his supple voice swirling into the silky sky, that could only happen in Florence.

Or, thanks to Spirito, a summer evening on a rooftop in Brooklyn.

From MoMA to Moim

Summer's only half over, but Saeri Uyoo Park wants you to forget about grilled hot dogs.

Park, who opened the chic Korean restaurant Moim in June, has worked for famous chefs in tony kitchens from Cafe Grey in the Time Warner Center to the Modern at MoMA — but Park Slope's Moim is her very own. And the sophisticated Korean dishes served go way beyond classic Korean barbecue. Unlike the ambitiously spiced, pan-Asian cuisine she prepared at Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Spice Market, in her own place Park sticks to Korean fare with a twist. There's boozy "Hong Hap Jjim," mussels glazed with rice wine and soy — a rice-distilled drink similar to vodka. There are also small plates, including "kim chi mandu," dumplings stuffed with the fiery, marinated cabbage called kimchi; as well as ground pork and tofu. Under the heading "Fun and exotic chef recommended dishes" is black cod in a salty, spicy chili paste called "gochujang." (The "Yook Hwe," steak tartar with Asian pear and pine nuts, is pictured at right.)

The coolly elegant space can be seen through a unique awning made of wooden slats that cover the cafe's large exterior window. Through the innovative screen, you can see a long room with simple tables and a wall of



carved wooden panels that add textural interest. A serene garden in back invites lingering.

You can bring your own bottle until the liquor license is granted, with no

corkage fee.

Moim (206 Garfield Pl., at Seventh Ave. in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$16-\$22. The restaurant

serves dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Subway: F to Seventh Avenue. For information, call (718) 499-8092 or visit www.moimrestaurant.com.

— Tina Barry

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VINTAGE...

Continued from page 9

In addition to selling clothes, Buffalo Exchange will buy your old ones. Locals line up with bags full of gently worn gems and samples from fashion houses, and the store will pay in either cash or store credit, making it easy to load up on another armful of clothing.

Housing Works

Vintage shopping in Brooklyn Heights can be like hitting yard sales in Beverly Hills — you're getting high quality castoffs, but it takes stopping into Housing Works an easy way to find cheap, chic outfits. "There is bound to be something in-

FASHION

Beacon's Closet 88 N. 11th St., at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg and 250 Fifth Ave., between Union and Prospect Streets, in Park Slope is open Monday through Friday from noon-9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For information, call (718) 486-0816 or (718) 230-1430 or visit www.beacons Closet.com.

Buffalo Exchange 804 Driggs Ave., at North Ninth Street in Williamsburg is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from noon-7 p.m. For information, call (718) 486-0816 or visit www.buffaloexchange.com.

Housing Works Thrift Shop 1122 Montague St., at Henry Street in Brooklyn

tags to suit everyone's style," said manager Kirk Smith, citing pieces from Marc Jacobs and Chanel that cost less than dinner at Park's End.

Height is open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. For information, call (718) 237-0201 or visit www.housingworksoutlets.com.

Hoti Couture 1221 Flatbush Ave., between Park and Prospect places, in Prospect Heights is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For information, call (718) 857-1977 or visit www.hoticouture.com.

Green Village Used Furniture & Clothing 270 St. St., at Nicholas Avenue in East Williamsburg is open Monday through Thursday 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For information, call (718) 456-8844 or visit www.greenvillage.com.

Housing Works can also give your apartment a splash of vintage class. Couches, coffee tables and armchairs are abundant and tend to be more Eames

than "Ewww." Our tip: Scope the sidewalk after closing. It's not unusual to find leftover treasures like velvet levetests tossed to the curb for garbage pick-up.

Hoti Couture

Former model Alison Hoti, who has graced the pages of Vogue and GQ Brooklyn, doesn't think of her goods as old-fashioned because they never went out of style. Shocking! allop purples, fur cuffs and classic dresses in her Prospect Heights boutique. Hoti, enthusiastically helps visitors pick outfits for parties, events or everyday glamour.

Until August 19, Hoti is holding a summer sale, where men's and women's garments are going for between \$10 and \$50, and costume jewelry is prices as low as \$5.

Green Village Used Furniture & Clothing

If you're in the mood for a traditional secondhand shop with endless racks of discount merchandise and that unmistakable thrift store smell, Green Village is the place for you.

What separates this shift shop from the mothballed pack, however, is a pay-by-the-pound system. For \$2, you can take home a five-pound mixed bag of the clothing—including plenty of current fashion favorites like high-waisted jeans, fitted vests and the ever-popular ironic T-shirt.

Books, accessories and furniture, all available at deep discounts, are worth browsing, but don't expect the curated feel of other shops while you search for a diamond in the rough.

Don Pedro's

90 Manhattan Ave. at McKinnon Street in East Williamsburg (718) 218-4914.

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The Day's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Recalling Danny Garcia

DANNY GARCIA IS UP ON THE WALL AT KeySpan Park, and up against the wall in his career.

The second baseman's name and uniform number (6) grace the parapets at the Coney Island ball yard to honor his grace the parapets at the Coney Island ball yard to honor the major leagues, yet after playing parts of two seasons with the New York Mets, Garcia is now with the Somerset Patriots, an independent team.

Garcia, 27, was the Mets fifth-round selection in the 2001 draft. The Popperline University star began his Brooklyn career on July 1 that year, and although he was with the Cyclones for only 15 games, his play was impressive. He batted .321 — and if you saw him play, you'd appreciate him even more.

For his first seven contests with Brooklyn, Garcia made a key play in every game. One day it was a beautiful hit-and-run single; the next day, he'd break up a double play with a slide; after that, he'd bunt for a hit, the following day, he'd hang in at second base against a take-out slide to start a double play.

Fans of so-called "little ball" were seeing it nearly every game from Garcia, and his play was a key factor in setting the tone for the Cyclones' inaugural championship season.

Garcia was promoted to Class-A Capital City in mid-July 2001, and quickly advanced up the Mets' minor-league ladder.

He became the first Cyclone to reach the bigs on Sept. 2, 2003, and he singled in his first at-bat.

The Cyclones' alumni hit .214 in 19 games for the Mets that season, and after spending the first few weeks of the 2004 season at Triple-A Norfolk, he was recalled to the Mets and hit .282 in 52 appearances.

Garcia was released by the Mets before the 2005 season, and he signed with the Cleveland Indians. He tore the labrum in his right shoulder during spring training that year, only playing in two regular season games with Triple-A Buffalo before he had to have an operation and missed the remainder of the season.

Released again, he signed with the New York Yankees, and played all of last year for their Columbus Triple-A team, hitting .242 in 123 games.

Once more a free agent, he signed with the Somerset Patriots, who play their home games in Bridgewater, New Jersey, only about an hour's drive from where he started his career in Brooklyn.

The Patriots play in the Atlantic League, which features players with professional experience, including many former major leaguers, who are striving to return to "organized baseball," meaning leagues associated with the majors.

Actually, the caliber of play in the league is high. "I tell people who ask that some nights it's Double-A, and some nights it's Triple-A," said Garcia.

Offensively, Garcia has been a force. Batting lead-off, he is hitting .266, but he has 36 walks and has a .381 on-base percentage.

Playing in 64 games, he leads the Atlantic League in runs with 61, but his biggest contribution has been through his base-stealing.

This reporter saw Garcia in a recent game, and he seems even faster and quicker than he was when he played in Brooklyn. He now gets incredible jumps on pitchers.

Breaking at just the right moment, he accelerates immediately. He leads the league with 36 stolen bases — 17 more than his nearest competitor — and has only been caught stealing three times, for a .923 success rate.

In fact, several times this season Garcia has used his speed and hustle to take an extra base on a walk, breaking to second just as the catcher softly returns the ball to the pitcher.

Although he is making an impression offensively, Garcia's hasn't yet regained the former stellar quality of his play defensively. While his speed and quickness enhance his range, he has committed 15 errors.

While Garcia attempts to get back to the major leagues by his on-field endeavors, off-the-field manager is working the phones.

"My agent is calling teams to remind them to keep me in mind, to tell them, 'He's still out there,'" said Garcia. "Mostly, if I can show people that I'm back health-wise, I don't know why they wouldn't want me."

One person who wants Garcia is his manager, Sparky Lyle, the former star reliever for the Red Sox, Yankees, and Pinks.

"Danny's been a real good player for us," said Lyle. "He has great range defensively, and terrific speed, and it doesn't look like anyone will catch him in the stolen base race."

Even though his stay in Brooklyn was brief, Garcia made an impression on the fans. But the fans impressed Garcia as well.

"The fans were the greatest — just crazy for having baseball back in Brooklyn," said Garcia. "It was a great place for me to start my professional career."

And now, six years after the start of his pro career, the Cyclones' first player to reach the majors just wants very much to get back there again.

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will take a page from his ancient ancestor and add a bit of umbric pentameter to all our lives. This week's contribution is called, "Let's Go Mets."

"Let's go Mets" is not a cheer, not from here, Rebuke is more the word — from fans' distressed.

The Cyclones' seventh season runs full gear, Two hundred seventy young men have dressed In Brooklyn togs up to this very week.

But on the Mets there is Joe Smith — just one Alumnus from the Cyclones. It's so bleak To think of all who left — Garcia done, Lindstrom pitches — Marlin now — you see?

DiNardo gone, Jacobs sent far away, Pagan's a Cub, and Benister's K.C. Pett was dumped, and Kozmin's Tampa Bay.

So let's go Mets — "Keep Cyclones," farm fans call, Remember — trading Clones? It's your downfall.

July 21, 2007

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A1P 13

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Cyclones off to best start ever

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

This team isn't only a roll, they're on a steamroll! During a six-game winning streak, the Cyclones outscored their opponents 49-12.

Cyclones 6 Valley Cats 3

Game 1, July 12, at Tri-City

The suddenly hot Raul Reyes went 2-for-3 with a homer, ending the Cyclones' skid at its first game. Reyes singled in the first inning, walked and scored in a five-run third and belted a solo shot, his fourth.

Will Vogl and Jacob Eigsti added RBI singles. Reliever Grady Hinchman (1-1) picked up the win and closer Stephen Clive got the save.

Valley Cats 7 Cyclones 3

Game 2, July 12, at Tri-City

In the nightcap, the Cyclones got on the board first, thanks to RBI singles by the dynamic duo, Will Vogl and



Jacob Jacobs scores in the third inning off a double by Will Vogl during Tuesday night's game at KeySpan Park.

Jacob Eigsti. But relievers Josh Appell and David Koons yielded six runs in the Valley Cats' sixth. Koons (3-1) took the loss.

Cyclones 16 Tri-City 7

July 13, at Tri-City

The Cyclones scored four runs

in the first two innings and 10 in the last two, rapping off 22 hits in a slugfest. Jacob Eigsti had his second homer and drove in three runs to raise the Cyclones' record to 18-7. Lucas Duda, Raul Reyes and Jason Jacobs combined for nine hits and six RBIs. Starter Nick Carr raised his record to 2-0, despite giving up four runs in five innings.

Cyclones 13 Spikes 1

July 14, at State College

A 1-1 pitchers' duel turned into a rout as the Cyclones scored 12 runs in the last three innings, thanks to a Lucas Duda homer in the seventh, homers by Raul Reyes (5), Jason Jacobs (3) and Jeriferes Taford (1), and a two-RBI single by Jacob Eigsti in the eighth, a Taford RBI single and an Eigsti sac fly in the ninth.

Cyclones 8 Spikes 1

July 15, at State College

This blowout featured two RBIs by Joaquin Rodriguez and Christopher Fournier and one by

the hot Jacob Eigsti. Three errors by the Spikes didn't hurt, either. Starter Dillon Gee got the win with 6-2/3 strong innings. He struck out four. Josh Appell tossed zeroes the rest of the way. Fournier (.389) was 3-for-4.

Cyclones 4 Spikes 2

July 16, at State College

The Clones completed the three-game sweep of the Spikes — and made David Koons the team's first four-game winner, thanks to his four innings of three-hit relief of undrafted starter Edgar Ramirez, who left after giving up the Spikes' only two runs. The Brooks got on the board early, with single runs in the first — on a Will Vogl single — and in the second, on a Jacob Eigsti single. The team added insurance runs in the sixth and eighth — both off singles by Matthew Broadhead.

Cyclones 5 Crosscutters 1

July 17, at KeySpan Park

Finally, starter Nick Wachter looked like the pitcher we've heard about, tossing five innings — and natching nine strikeouts for his first win, and the Cyclones' fifth straight. The hot-hitting Will Vogl went 3-for-4 with a two-run single in the third to give Brooklyn a 3-1 lead and improve the team's record to 21-7, the Cyclones' best start ever. Jason Jacobs added a two-run homer in the fifth, his fourth of the year.

Cyclones 3 Crosscutters 0

July 18, at KeySpan Park

Dylan Owen, Dan McDonald and closer Stephen Clyne combined on a two-litter, as the Cyclone winning streak ran to six. The Clones got all the offense they'd need in the fourth, thanks to Jason Jacobs' RBI double. Later in the inning, Lucas Duda played Jacobs with a single. Catcher Jeriferes Taford's seventh-inning double ended the scoring. Owen is now 4-0 with a 1.65 ERA. Clyne's save was his team-leading sixth.

CYCLONES Then & Now

The 2001 Cyclones won the New York-Penn League Championship under the leadership of manager Edgar Alfonzo. Now that Fonde is back, many fans are assuming that the 2007 Cyclones will repeat the franchise's former glory. Here's how this year's team compares to that fabled squad.

2001 (Through 29 games)	2007 (Through 29 games)
Record: 20-9	Record: 22-7
Highlight of the week: The Cyclones pitching staff completely dominated the league, at one point possessing a team ERA of 1.82. Luz Portabanco's seven innings of shutout ball on July 15 against the Yankees kept them rolling.	Highlight of the week: The hit kept coming for the Clones, whose road trip ended at State College, where timely hitting by Jacob Eigsti, Chris Fournier and Raul Reyes helped outscore the Spikes 25-4 over three games.

Former Cyclone second baseman Danny Garcia.

Weight loss makes a new Carr

By Patrick Hickey Jr.

The Brooklyn Paper

With a 2-0 record and 31 strikeouts in 23-2/3 innings, Cyclones pitcher Nick Carr may be the most dominating starter the team has.

This off-season however, Carr was the organization's biggest loser and it wasn't because of his record in the Winter League. Losing 40 pounds off his 6-foot-1 frame, the new-and-improved righty now weighs in at 190 pounds — and feels

phenomenal. "I always felt like I was out of shape on the mound," said the Twin Falls, Idaho-native. "When I'd run, I'd get shin splints. Now I'm one of the faster guys on the team."

Hiring a personal trainer after struggling in his first season in the organization last season, Carr made it his top priority to get into shape. However, transforming himself into the Adonis he is today wasn't easy.

"It was really hard, but it was kind of embarrassing to be on the mound the way I was. I had to do something about it. I'm not the type of person who likes to go to the gym every day, but I told myself I had to lose this weight. I even surprised myself," said Carr, who had a 3-3



record and a 4.88 ERA last season at Kingsport, the Mets' rookie-league affiliate. "It wasn't easy, but I did it right way. I stopped eating junk food and I was in the gym everyday lifting and running."

More important, the Cyclones' coaches love what they see from the leaner, meaner Carr.

"He has good stuff," said Brooklyn manager Edgar Alfonzo. "He really battles out there and he's one of the reasons why we've been so successful this season."

Vogl's an 'Animal'

for The Brooklyn Paper

When Cyclones outfielder Will Vogl comes to bat, everyone takes notice.

It's not because he's one of the hottest hitters on the team, hitting .314 with 13 RBIs and eight stolen bases this season, it's because the song that plays on his way to the plate is so damn good.

Vogl looks invincible as he walks confidently to the plate as "Animal," by Three Days Grace, blares through the KeySpan Park speakers. He claims the song helps him embrace his darker side.

Not that it was by choice. "I got the song from a PA

announcer in Hagerstown last season," said the 23-year-old, Pacifica, California native. "The first time I heard it, I thought that it was a sick intro, so I just stuck with it. I like it a lot."

Just like the protagonist in the song, the St. John's product has transformed into a different type of animal, going from a free-winging power hitter to a contact hitter with speed. But unlike the song, Vogl is happy with the animal he's become. "The song totally suits me. I'm not hitting too bad either."

The Cyclones coaching staff also sees a huge difference in Vogl's game. "He's starting to understand what it takes to develop into a better player here," said manager Edgar Alfonzo. "He can do so much more than hit for power."

— Hickey

A 'Minaya-cle' visit to Brooklyn

for The Brooklyn Paper

Mets' General Manager Omar Minaya was observing the Cyclones on July 17, and afterwards, Clones' manager Edgar Alfonzo was asked if the presence of his boss caused any nervousness — either for him or his players.

"That was a lot of pressure," said Alfonzo. "I talked to the guys before the game, and I said that the general manager was here along with scouts, and to just do the things they have been doing all along, and don't worry about it."

One scout mentioned that the Cyclones looked loose be-

fore the game, so they must not have been feeling the pressure. But Alfonzo disagreed: "No, they were feeling the pressure, no doubt about it."

Minaya said the goal was not to stress out the hot team — or Alfonzo.

"I was happy to have Edgar

back here — I think he won here, if I'm not mistaken," Minaya said. (Subtle, Omar. Subtle.)

Well, the good news is that this year's Cyclones seem to thrive under pressure: With Minaya and some scouts watching their every move, they won, 5-1.

— Ed Shakespeare

THE BARD IS ON BCAT

Our own Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, is a regular on Mike Bellamy's "BCAT Sports Talk." The latest episode, which centered on, of course, the white-hot Cyclones, can be seen on Saturday, July 21 at 11 am and 7 pm, Monday, July 23 and Wednesday, July 25 at 1:30 and 9:30 pm, and Thursday, July 26 at 10 pm. The show is on channel 56 for Time Warner customers and channel 69 (Cablevision).

Dem Bums' last season

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brooklyn Dodgers' final, dismal campaign, The Brooklyn Paper will provide a weekly reminder of the fabled Boys of Summer. Here's this week's highlight:

July 26, 1957 Reds 6 — Dodgers 5 (11 innings)

The miserable 1957 season in a nutshell: Gil Hodges gave the team a lead in the second, struggling lefty Sandy Koufax coughed it up, the Brooks tied it by scoring the game's last four runs, but then reliever Roger Craig lost the game in the 11th. The Dodgers dropped to fourth place.

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THE CYCLONES ARE BROOKLYN.

The pen is mightier

But sword will do in this writers' battle

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

In DUMBO, a tradition of literary sparring is getting bloody. Brooklyn novelist and occasional amateur pugilist Jonathan "Herring Wonder" Ames will this Tuesday trade in a chewed-up pen for a pair of cherry-red boxing gloves and take on a writer 11 years his junior (and from Canada!) in a long-awaited writer-on-writer boxing match at the world-famous Gleason's Gym on Front Street.

The bout will pit the prolific 43-year-old Cobble Hill fiction and essay writer against 32-year-old Craig "The Crippler" Davidson, author of "The Fighter," a novel about a sheltered young professional who falls into the bloody underworld of bare-knuckle boxing.

Both authors admit that the bout is a publicity stunt hatched weeks away from the Aqua Net and gold chains of Don King, in the air-conditioned office of

Davidson's publisher, Soho Press.

However, that doesn't mean that the writers aren't in for the blood — or the musculation. "[Davidson] is muscular and lanky. I wish it was over and I had done well," said Ames, speaking to a reporter while punning a Gleason's punching bag.

For his part, Davidson claims to be "in the best

shape of [his] life." He added that he considered Ames "dangerous," but not in the same league as his last foe, a Canadian poet.

"I have already fought a bear and now I am fighting a wolverine," he explained.

Gleason's Gym owner Bruce Silverglade said that he was pleased to host the exhibition, but warned that the gap in ages may hurt hometown hero Ames.

"In 11 years, your reflexes show tremendously," he said. "This ego may tell him that he can beat this guy, but physiologically..." Ames has twice broken his nose while boxing (and three more times if you include non-sanctioned shinnings). This time, the writer plans to protect his proboscis with special headgear that he describes as a cross between "a catcher's mask [and] something that Hannibal Lecter would wear."

Craig Davidson vs. Jonathan Ames, Tuesday, July 24, Gleason's Gym (77 Front St., between Washington and Main streets in DUMBO), 8 p.m. Call (718) 797-1050 for info.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Jonathan "Herring Wonder" Ames	Name	Craig "The Crippler" Davidson
Published six books. A graphic novel, "The Alcoholic," is due out in 2008.	Record	Published two books, including "The Fighter."
Weight	157	160
5-foot-10-1/2	Height	6-foot-1
43	Age	32
32 inches	Waist	33 inches
Reach	33	33
"Then I remembered I was Spider-Man and kept up my pursuit," he wrote in the 2007 essay, "My Career as a Bigger Lifetime Record 1-4." (Published by McSweeney's)	Reach	I can feel these two big vulgar bundles on either side of my hip, little berries under there pumping blood." (From the publicity material for "The Fighter")

Bagel battle ends

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Acena Bagels — the Atlantic Yards-area bagelry that ran afoul of Bruce Ratner's opponents because the shop's name suggested that the mega-development was inevitable — is now officially A.R.E.A. Bagels.

Owner Ravi Aggarwal agreed to change the name several months ago after Ratner's opponents complained, but the altered sign — with its missing "N" and periods — only went up this week.

Aggarwal said the periods between the letters were not just spaceholders, but abbreviations of the names of his family members. More than that, he wouldn't say.

I am so happy how it all worked out," Aggarwal said at Wednesday's grand opening. "Now, people are coming in and saying, 'Thanks for changing the name.' They don't need

to thank me. I gave in because I want to be part of this neighborhood, this community."

It wasn't always so festive. Back in May, Aggarwal walked into a firestorm over the Acena Bagels name. At the time, he said he picked the name only because his bagel store — on Fifth Avenue between Bergen Street and St. Marks Place in Park Slope — is so close to Ratner's proposed basketball palace.

"For me, naming it 'Acena' was all about location," he said at the time. "I just knew I wanted to come to Brooklyn with my bagels and bialys, which are the best, by the way. I don't know anything about the Atlantic Yards project."

Aggarwal quickly got an education about the mega-project — and the negative passions it provokes in some. Some of his would-be customers were openly hostile, he said.

At first, the native of Punjab — who worked himself up to be a dishwasher to a manager to, finally, the owner of bagel stores in Queens, Long Island and, now, Brooklyn — said he would never change the name (or alter the \$8,000 sign).

But he quickly relented, pledging his unshying love for his neighbors. The Brooklyn Paper got a first taste of Aggarwal's products and can report that the bialys and spreads are outstanding.

The good news is that the sign-maker agreed to change the design for free. And Aggarwal says he intends to hang the absent "N" on the wall of his shop, surrounded by newspaper clippings of the controversy.

A.R.E.A. Bagels (55 Fifth St., between Bergen Street and St. Marks Place) is open Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call (718) 230-8889 for information.

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MARTY \$...

Continued from page 1
into a wider constituency of supporters if he wants to make a run for mayor.

"He likely went after the low-lying fruit, the easiest money to raise first, which is not an atypical strategy," said Scott Levenson, a political consultant. "The challenge before him is to broaden his fundraising base and increase the amount of donors."

But Hank Sheinkopf, another political consultant and a long-time acquaintance of Markowitz's, said the Beep's lackluster fundraising simply indicated his indecision about running.

"He's always been a good fundraiser," said Sheinkopf. "If he made up his mind, he'd be doggedly pursuing the money trail."

But make up his mind, he hasn't. Back in June, Markowitz told The Brooklyn Paper, "Every day I don't decide makes it more and more challenging."

Should Markowitz finally decide to declare, strategists are unambivalent as to his ability to win.

"He has a message to sell, a packaging that has appeal, and he's been in city and state politics almost three decades," said Levenson. "He should not be taken lightly."

"That said, you have some real pros with lots of money in the Democratic field, from [City Council] Speaker Christine Quinn to Congressman [Anthony] Weiner, and of course Comptroller Thompson."

Marty's 'Who's Who'

Donors to Borough President Markowitz's still-undeclared 2009 mayoral candidacy come from the very upper crust of Brooklyn's business community. Here are some of the Beep's bold-faced contributors who wrote the checks for the maximum contribution — \$4,950.

Donald Trump: \$4,950	Joe Sitt: \$4,950	Dolly Williams: \$4,950
Shaya Boymlgreen: \$4,950	Steve Hindy: \$4,950	

OTHERS

- Josh Matus, whose Matus Development is a major Brooklyn builder, \$4,950
- David Steiner, Steiner Studios, \$4,950
- Sam Chang, developer behind the Gowanus Holiday Inn and the Comfort Inn in Boerum Hill, \$4,950
- John (Dottie) Hasty, publisher of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, \$4,950

— Dana Rubinstein

ANGLE...

Continued from page 1

thing. "She's bright, she's competent, and she's shown she can work across the aisle — she's got it all," said Margaret McClure, who has donated \$1,100 to the Clinton campaign. "I guess Obama does, too, but it's not his time yet. He'll be a great president someday, but not now."

But what about the war? Clinton famously voted to allow President Bush to invade Iraq — and now is running so fast from that vote that she's leaving burn marks on the House rug.

"Well, Obama says he won't for the war, but he won't even in the Senate, so we don't know what he would've done," McClure said. "We were all greatly misled by his war business."

Of course, Park Slopers were quick to point out that Clinton now says she was lied to by President Bush before casting her war vote — but shouldn't her supposedly deep experience have allowed her

to see through the president's lies?

"Maybe there's some distrust of Hillary's tendency to triangulate and seek the 'centrist' position rather than standing up for something," said Obama supporter and Park Slope resident Stephen Warnke, who gave the Illinois senator \$500. "I know that I like Obama's strong and consistent position against the war in contrast to Hillary."

This battle for the soul of Brooklyn is so heated that it's engulfing residents of other neighborhoods.

Former City Councilman Sal Albanese lives in Bay Ridge — where Clinton out-raised Obama, \$16,300 to \$734 — yet wrote Obama a \$1,000 Et tu, Sal?

"I saw him on Larry King and I'm impressed with him," Albanese said. "The Clintons have been around for a long time and people want fresh faces. Except in the Heights."

How far will this battle go? Tune in on Tuesday, when Obama attends a big-ticket fundraiser in the heart of Hillary Country: Brooklyn Heights.

very emotional issue," he said.

It's also expensive and time-consuming. The signs themselves cost \$58 to make, according to a DOT spokesperson. But there's thousands of dollars in hidden labor costs on the day of the street co-naming ceremony.

Many people would argue that the expense pales by comparison to the honor bestowed on worthy New Yorkers. So far, over 400 streets have been co-named for victims of the 9-11 terror attacks, a Parks Department official said. And there are dozens of street signs honoring everyone from Senator Winces to John Fitzer, the horse-racing writer who

first dubbed New York City "The Big Apple."

In Brooklyn, streets were recently co-named for author Harriet Tubman, book illustrator Tom Feelings, reggae star Bob Marley and Frederick I. Egan, a 49-year veteran of Brooklyn's public schools.

Some requests spark off intense controversy. Earlier this month, the City Council was consumed by debate over whether to co-name a portion of Fulton Street after civil rights activist Sonny Carson. After the Council voted against the sign, activists had an unofficial ceremony and put it up anyway.

The Brooklyn Paper

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